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(54) Cloned gene encoding for bacteriocin from pediococcus acidilactici

Geklontes Gen, dass Bacteriocin von Pediococcus Acidilactici kodiert

Gène clone codant pour le bactériocin de Pediococcus Acidilactici

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- **APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 53, no. 10, October 1987, WASHINGTON DC, US, pages 2534 - 2538; C.F.GONZALEZ ET AL.: 'Plasmid-associated bacteriocin production and sucrose fermentation in Pediococcus acidilactici'**
- **JOURNAL OF GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 136, no. 3, March 1990, COLCHESTER, GB, pages 555 - 566; H.M.DODD ET AL.: 'Analysis of the genetic determinant for production of the peptide antibiotic nisin'**
- **BIOTECHNOLOGY ABSTRACTS. DERWENT PUBLICATIONS LTD, LONDON GB, ABSTRACT NO 89-03407; A.K. BHUNIA ET AL.: 'Purification, characterization and antimicrobial spectrum of a bacteriocin produced by Pediococcus acidilactici - Potential application of pediocin ACH as biological food preservative'**

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Description

The present invention relates to a sequenced gene encoding for a bacteriocin in Pediococcus acidilactici and in particular to a gene that is essential for the production of the functional bacteriocin, called hereafter helper protein, and to the cloned gene in a vector which is transformed into a bacterium. In particular, the present invention relates to a sequenced gene encoding for a bacteriocin derived from a plasmid in Pediococcus acidilactici.

The pediococci are a diverse group of Gram-positive homofermentative lactic acid bacteria often found as saphrophytes on vegetable material (Gonzalez, C. F., and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 53:2534-2538 (1987); and Mundt, J. O., W. G. Beattie, and F. R. Wieland, J. Bacteriol. 98:938-942 (1969)). Commercially, pediococci are used in the fermentation of vegetables (Pederson, Bacteriol. Rev. 13:225-232 (1949) and meats (Smith, J. L., and S. A. Palumbo, J. Food Prot. 46:997-1006 (1983)).

Some strains of P. pentosaceus, P. cerevisiae and P. acidilactici have been found to contain resident plasmids although the roles of most of these remain unknown (Gonzalez, C. F., and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 46: 81-89 (1983); Graham, D. C., and L. L. McKay, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 50:532-534 (1985); and Raccach, M., CRC Crit. Rev. Microbiol. 14:291-309 (1987)). The association of raffinose fermentation and plasmid DNA has been reported (Gonzalez, C. F., and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 51:105-109 (1986)), as has been the ability of P. acidilactici to ferment sucrose (Gonzalez, C. F. and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol 53:2534-2538 (1987)). Moreover, there have been several reports which associate the production of bacteriocins with host plasmid DNA (Daeschel, M. A., and T. R. Klaenhammer, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 51:1538-1541 (1985); Gonzalez, C. F., and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 53:2534-2538 (1987); Graham, D. C., and L. . McKay, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 50:532-534 (1985); and Bhunia et al, J. Applied Bact. 65:261-268 (1988)). It was shown by Gonzalez, C. F. and B. S. Kunka (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 53:2534-2538 (1987)) that bacteriocin production was encoded by a 9.0 kbp plasmid pSRQ11 in P. acidilactici PAC1.0. Further work (Pucci, M. P., E. R. Vedamuthu, B. S. Kunka and P. A. Vandenbergh, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 54:2349-2353 (1988)) demonstrated that the bacteriocin of P. acidilactici PAC1.0 was active against a wide spectrum of gram positive lactic acid bacteria, and also against Listeria monocytogenes. This anti-listerial activity was observed in broth and on agar plates, as well as in some dairy products. Inhibition of L. monocytogenes by this bacteriocin, PA-1, has also been noted in fermented semi-dry sausage (Berry, E. D., M. B. Liewen, R. W. Mandigo and R. W. Huthine, J. Food Protection 53, 194-197 (1990)) and fresh meat (Nielsen, J. W., J. S. Dickson and J. D. Crouse, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 56, 2142-2145 (1990)). The cloning of genes for the production of the bacteriocin has not been described and this would be useful for producing bacteriocin in significant quantities in genera unrelated to Pediococcus, or enhancing production in the pediococci.

Cloned Gram-positive genes for different unrelated proteins have been shown to express in Escherichia coli (Gilmore, M. S., Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol. 118:219-234 (1985); Rogeson, J. P., R. G. Barletta, and R. Curtiss III, J. Bacteriol. 153:211-221 (1983); and Smorawinska, M., J. C. Hsu, J. B. Hansen, E. K. Jagusztyn-Krynicka, Y. H. Abiko, and R. Curtiss III, J. Bacteriol. 153:1095-1097 (1983)).

Earlier European patent application 0 406 545 discloses a gene segment of isolated and purified DNA from a Pediococcus which is preferably Pedicoccus acidilactici NRRL-B-18050 (PAC 1.0), encoding for a polypeptide which is a bacteriocin having a molecular mass of between about 19,000 to 20,000 daltons by SDS-PAGE analysis.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide the sequenced gene for the bacteriocin and its essential helper protein(s), which are used as vectors that can be transferred to other microorganisms that contain the genetic information of these genes in such a way that the functional bacteriocin is produced by these new hosts. Such microorganisms are particularly in the genera Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Leuconostoc, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Escherichia, Bacillus and yeasts. These and other objects will become increasingly apparent by reference to the following description and the drawings.

Figure 1 shows a restriction endonuclease site map of pSRQ11. P. acidilactici PAC1.0 plasmid pSRQ11 is 9.0 kbp and contains the gene for PA-1 bacteriocin.

Figures 2A and 2B show restriction endonuclease site maps of pSRQ11.1 and pSRQ11.2, respectively. Both plasmids are 14.5 kbp and contain erythromycin resistance (ery) genes at the locations indicated. The E. coli origin of replication (ori) and the remaining part of the chloramphenicol resistance (cml) gene are shown. Numbered triangles (Δ) indicate areas of each plasmid which had been subsequently deleted.

Figure 3A shows a restriction endonuclease site map of pSRQ220. Plasmid pSRQ220 is 9.3 kbp and is a chimera of Escherichia coli plasmid pBR322 and PAC1.0 plasmid pSRQII digested with EcoRI and SalI and ligated together. The *Escherichia coli* origin of replication (ori) and the ampicillin resistance (amp) gene are indicated. The 5.6 kbp EcoRI-SalI fragment is indicated by the open box. Figure 3B shows a physical map of the 5.6 kbp EcoRI-SalI fragment from pSRQ220. The horizontal arrows denote open reading frames discussed hereinafter (ORF 1, ORF 2. and ORF 3). The horizontal lines, indicated by numbered triangles (Δ1, Δ2 and Δ3), represent three deletions present in plasmids pUR5204 (Δ1), pSRQ220.2 (Δ2), and pSRQ11.13 (Δ3), respectively.

Figure 4 shows the nucleotide sequence of the 5.6 kbp EcoRI-SalI insert from pSRQ220. The derived amino acid

sequences of ORF1, ORF2, and ORF3 are also shown. The arrow indicates the start of the mature PA-1 bacteriocin. The TAG termination codons are denoted with an asterisk (*).

Figure 5A shows a coomassie stained 5-22% acrylamide SDS-PAGE gel of purified PA-1. a = 66000, b = 45000, c = 36000, d = 29000, e = 24000, f = 20100, g = 14200, h = 6500 Daltons. Standards a through g are MW-SDS-70L (Sigma), standard h is aprotinin (Sigma).

Figure 5B shows an unstained gel overlayed with a lawn of *Pediococcus pentosaceus* FBB63 indicator cells. Inhibition zone (large arrow) is apparent. 1 = 110000, 2 = 84000, 3 = 47000, 4 = 33000, 5 = 24000, 6 = 16000 Daltons. Prestained standards (Biorad) were used.

The present invention relates to a nucleotide sequence corresponding to the nucleotide sequence which can be isolated from a strain belonging to the genus Pediococcus, consisting of genes coding for both a bacteriocin precursor which is ORF1 and a gene for at least one protein selected from the group consisting of ORF2, ORF3 and ORF2 and ORF3 as given in Figure 4 and modifications thereof essential for obtaining a functional active bacteriocin. Preferred embodiments thereof are described in claims 2-5.

The invention further relates to a nucleotide sequence encoding only a bacteriocin precursor, said nucleic acid being selected from the group consisting of ORF1 in Figure 4, and modifications thereof that encode a protein still having the capability of being converted into an active bacteriocin.

The invention further relates to a vector, that can be stably maintained in a host microorganism, which vector can be maintained as a plasmid or can integrate into a chromosome of the host microorganism, comprising a nucleotide sequence described hereinbefore. Preferred embodiments thereof are described in claims 8-10 and 13.

The invention further relates to microorganisms transformed by introducing said vector, capable of producing bacteriocin. Preferably, the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genera *Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Leuconostoc, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Escherichia,* and yeasts.

The invention further relates to a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein essential for obtaining a functional active bacteriocin, said nucleotide sequence being ORF2 or ORF3, as given in Figure 4, or modifications thereof as described in claims 14 or 15, respectively.

The DNA encoding the bacteriocin can be replicated by means of a polymerase chain reaction as described in Chemical Engineering News, pages 36-46, October 1, 1990 and in other references. The appropriate 3' and 5' terminal regions of the DNA encoding the bacteriocin can be used as primers defining the region to be replicated.

The gene segment is preferably derived from Pediococcus acidilactici NRRL-B-18050 also known herein as PAC1.0, which is deposited with the Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Illinois under the Budapest Treaty. The genes involved in bacteriocin activity are carried on a 9.0 kbp plasmid designated herein as pSRQ11. A DNA segment (SalI to EcoRI; 5.6 kbp) is ligated in purified form in a vector plasmid pBR322 and called pSRQ220. This plasmid is transformed to Escherichia coli NRRL-B-18429 and deposited at the same depository under the Budapest Treaty.

U.S. Patent No. 4,883,673 which is assigned to a common assignee describes the isolation of a bacteriocin from Pediococcus acidilactici NRRL-B-18050 which inhibits various bacteria. A plasmid in this strain was disclosed to encode for the bacteriocin. The bacteriocin was described to be useful in foods to inhibit bacterial spoilage. U.S. Patent No. 4,929,445, assigned to a common assignee, describes a method of using the bacteriocin to inhibit Listeria monocytogenes which produces a severe illness in humans. The plasmid pSRQ11 was described as the source of the bacteriocin. The usefulness of the bacteriocin is well established.

SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION

The following Examples show the steps in sequencing the gene encoding for the bacteriocin.

Bacterial strains and media. The bacterial strains used are listed in Table 1.

Table 1.

Bacterial Strains and Plasmids		
Strain or plasmid	Remarks[a]	Reference
P. acidilactici		
PAC1.0	contains 9.0 kbp PA-1 pediocin plasmid, PSRQ11	(4)
PAC1.14	PAC1.0 derivative cured of pSRQ11	(4)
P. pentosaceus		
FBB63C	Sensitive indicator strain for PA-1 pediocin	(4)
E. coli		
V850	Hypersensitivity to macrolide antibiotics	(5)
V871	Tetracycline sensitive	(7)
2g4	Tetracycline sensitive Ampicillin sensitive	(8)
Plasmids		
pBR322	Ap^r, Tc^r	(1)
pACYC18	Cm^r, Tc^r	(2)
4		
pVA891	Em^r	(6)
pSA3	Em^r, Cm^r, Tc^r	(3)
pSRQ11	9.0 kbp PA-1 pediocin plasmid	(4)

[a]Ap, ampicillin; Cm, chloroamphenicol; Em, erythromycin; r, resistance, and Tc tetracycline.

(1) Bolivar, F., et al., Gene 2:95-113 (1977).
(2) Chang, A.C.Y., et al., J. Bacteriol. 134:1141-1156 (1978).
(3) Dao, My Lien, et al., Applied and Environmental Microbiology. 49:115-119 (Jan. 1985).
(4) Gonzalez, Carlos F., et al., Applied and Environmental Microbiology. 53:2534-2538 (Oct. 1987).
(5) Macrina, Francis L., et al., Gene, 19:345-353 (1982).
(6) Macrina, Francis L., et al., Gene, 25:145-150 (1983).
(7) Tobian, Janet Ash, et al., Journal of Bacteriology, 160:556-563 (Nov. 1984).
(8) Backman, K., et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. 73, 4174-4178 (1976).

Pediococcus spp. were routinely maintained on MRS agar (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, MI). Escherichia coli strains were routinely carried on Lennox L agar (Gibco/BRL, Gaithersburg, Md.). Escherichia coli strains were also grown on modified MRS agar (no citrate or acetate) or in M9 medium (Maniatis, T., E. F. Fritsch, and J. Sambrook, Molecular cloning: a laboratory manual. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY (1982)) supplemented with 1% yeast extract (Oxoid, Ltd., Basingstoke, Hampshire, U.K.) and 1% Hy Case™ (Sheffield Products, Norwich, NY) for bacteriocin assays. Selective antibiotic concentrations were as follows: ampicillin, 25 ug/ml; tetracycline, 10 ug/ml; erythromycin, 50 ug/ml; and chloramphenicol, 25 ug/ml. All antibiotics were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO.

Bacteriocin assays. Production of bacteriocin was assayed as previously described (Gonzalez, C. F., and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 53:2534-2538 (1987)). Strains were patched on MRS agar or modified MRS agar for Escherichia coli and incubated at 35°C for 18 hours. The plates were then overlaid with soft agar (0.8%) seeded with indicator cells. Isolates which produced a clear, defined zone of inhibition were considered as bacteriocin producers.

One arbitrary unit (AU) of bacteriocin was defined as 5 microliters of the highest dilution of culture supernatant yielding a definite zone of growth inhibition on the indicator lawn. The titer was expressed as the reciprocal of the highest dilution showing inhibition.

Isolation and analysis of plasmid DNA. Covalently closed circular plasmid DNA was isolated from Escherichia coli by the method of Clewell and Helinski (Clewell, D. B., and D. R. Helinski, Biochemistry 9:4428-4440 (1970)). Escherichia coli strains were screened for plasmid content as previously described (Macrina, F. L., J. A. Tobian, K. R. Jones, R. P. Evans, and D. B. Clewell. Gene 19:345-353 (1982)). Pediococcus plasmid DNA was obtained by a scaled up modification of the LeBlanc and Lee procedure (LeBlanc, D. J., and L. N. Lee, J. Bacteriol. 140:1112-1115 (1979)) as described by Gonzalez and Kunka (Gonzalez, C. F., and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 46:81-89 (1983)). Plasmid DNA and restriction endonuclease digests were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis on 0.8% agarose (Bethesda Research Laboratories, Inc., Gaithersburg, MD) slab gels. Size standards were *Escherichia coli* V517 (Macrina, F. L., D. J. Kopecko, K. R. Jones, D. J. Ayers, and S. McCowen, Plasmid 1:417-420 (1978)) for undigested plasmid DNA and HindIII - digested bacteriophage lambda DNA (Bethesda Research Laboratories) for restriction endonuclease - cleaved plasmid DNA.

DNA enzymology. Restriction endonuclease digestions were performed in low-, medium-, or high-salt buffers, as

recommended by Maniatis et al. (Maniatis, T., E. F. Fritsch, and J. Sambrook, Molecular cloning: a laboratory manual. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY (1982)). Restriction enzymes were obtained from Bethesda Research Laboratories. DNA ligation reactions were carried out with T4 DNA ligase (Bethesda Research Laboratories) at 4°C for 16 hours according to conditions recommended by the manufacturer.

Bacterial transformations. *Escherichia coli* was transformed by the $CaCl_2$ heat shock method (Molecular cloning: a laboratory manual. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY (1982)) with cells harvested at an optical density at 660 nm of 0.2 to 0.3.

Purification of PA-1. Cultural supernatant was neutralized to pH 6.0 with sodium hydroxide prior to gel filtration. A 450 ml aliquot of neutralized supernatant was applied to a 5 cm x 55 cm column (Pharmacia) containing one liter of Spectra/Gel AcA 202 (Spectrum) gel filtration resin which had been equilibrated with 0.05 M 2-(N-morpholino) ethanesulfonic acid (MES), pH 6.0.

Activity was eluted using the same buffer. Active fractions were pooled and applied to a 2.5 cm x 90 cm CM-Sepharose column equilibrated with .05 M MES, pH 6.0. Activity was eluted with a linear gradient to .05 M MES containing 1 M sodium chloride, pH 6.0. Active fractions were pooled and dialyzed against a 10 fold excess of water using 1000 Da molecular weight cut-off dialysis tubing (Spectra-Por 6, Spectrum). Dialysate volume was reduced 12 fold by applying the dialysis tubing directly to solid 20 KDa polyethylene glycol (Carbowax, Union Carbide) and was then further reduced 3.5 fold by vacuum centrifugation (Speed-Vac, Savant). Concentrated PA-1 was applied to a 1.0 cm x 25 cm C18 reversed-phase column (Vydac) equilibrated with 0.1% aqueous trifluoroacetic acid. Activity was eluted with a linear gradient to 45% acetonitrile over 30 minutes at 1.5 ml/min. Active fractions were determined by directly spotting aliquots of column effluent on MRS plates overlaid with soft agar containing indicator cells. Active fractions were dried by vacuum centrifugation and stored at -20°C. Specific activity is defined as AU per milligram protein. Protein analyses were performed using the BCA protein assay kit (Pierce) using directions supplied with the kit.

Example 1

Restriction endonuclease map of pSRQ11. The genes involved in bacteriocin PA-1 activity were previously shown to be associated with the presence of a 9.0 kilobase plasmid, designated pSRQ11 (Gonzalez, C. F., and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 53:2534-2538 (1987)). Plasmid pSRQ11 was digested with a number of restriction endonucleases to generate the restriction site map shown in Figure 1. The plasmid contained several unique sites including EcoRI, NdeI, XbaI, SalI, and SstI. Other restriction enzymes which cleaved the plasmid were ClaI, HindIII, PvuII, and EcoRV. The following restriction sites were not found on pSRQ11: AvaI, BamHI, SphI, NruI, PstI, and BglII.

Expression of PA-1 bacteriocin in *E. coli.* Plasmid pSRQ11 was digested with EcoRI and cloned into the EcoRI site on plasmid pVA891 (Macrina, F. L., et al., Gene 25:145-150 (1983)), which contains an erythromycin resistance marker expressed in both *Escherichia coli* and streptococci. Recombinant plasmids were obtained with pSRQ11 inserted in both orientations and were designated pSRQ11.1 and pSRQ11.2 as shown in Figure 2. These *Escherichia coli* strains were assayed for expression of the PA-1 bacteriocin as previously described (Gonzalez, C. F., and B. S. Kunka, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 53:2534-2538 (1987)). The strains were grown on modified MRS medium and overlaid with *Pediococcus pentosaceus* FBB63 indicator strain. *Escherichia coli* strains containing pSRQ11.1 and pSRQ11.2 both produced zones of inhibition in the indicator lawn while the control *Escherichia coli* V850 strains showed no zone of inhibition (Table 2).

Table 2. Plasmids derived from pSRQ11

Name	Fragment	Vector	Bacteriocin Activity
pSRQ11.1	EcoRI nicked pSRQ11	pVA891	+
pSRQ11.2	EcoRI nicked pSRQ11 (opposite orientation from pSRQ11.1)	pVA891	+
pSRQ11.11	SalI deletion of pSRQ11.1	pVA891	+
pSRQ11.12	PvuII deletion of pSRQ11.1	pVA891	-
pSRQ11.13	PvuII deletion of pSRQ11.1	pVA891	-
pSRQ11.21	SalI deletion of pSRQ11.2	pVA891	-
pSRQ11.22	PvuII deletion of pSRQ11.2	pVA891	-
pSRQ161	EcoRI nicked pSRQ11	pSA3	+
pSRQ210	3.7 kbp XbaI-SalI	pACYC184	-
pSRQ211	2.7 kbp HindIII fragment C	pACYC184	-
pSRQ220	5.6 kbp EcoRI-SalI	pBR322	+

pSRQ220.1	ClaI deletion of pSRQ220	pBR322	-
pSRQ220.2	HindIII deletion of pSRQ220	PBR322	-
pSRQ220.3	PvuII deletion of pSRQ220	pBR322	-
pSRQ221	pACYC184 in XbaI site of pSRQ220	pBR322	-
pSRQ221.1	XbaI deletion of pSRQ221	pBR322	+
pSRQ222	pACY184 XbaI-EcoRI fragment in pSRQ220	pBR322	-
pUR5204	1.3 kbp HindIII-SalI deletion derivative of pSRQ220	pBR322	-
pUR5205	pSRQ220 derivative with disrupted HindIII site in ORF 3	pBR322	-
pUR5206	pSRQ220 derivative with disrupted HindIII site in ORF 2	pBR322	+
pUR5217	pSRQ220 derivative with BamHI linker insertion in BalI site of ORF 1	pBR322	-

The plasmid pSRQ11 was also cloned in the unique EcoRI site of the E. coli-Streptococcus shuttle plasmid pSA3. The resulting clone was called pSRQI6I. When the E. coli V850 strain carrying pSRQ161 (Table 2) was grown overnight in M9 medium supplemented with 1% yeast extract and 1% Hy Case, the filter sterilized culture supernatant yielded approximately 400 AU/ml of the bacteriocin PA-1. This observation indicated that E. coli V850 (pSRQ161) was producing and excreting PA-1 into the media. Also, other E. coli strains were transformed with the plasmid pSRQI6I and observed to produce PA-1. From this data, it was concluded that a gene fragment encoding bacteriocin PA-1 from P. acidilactici PAC 1.0 can be expressed and is functional in an E. coli host strain.

Example 3

Deletion derivative analysis of pSRQ11 subclones.

In order to localize the region encoding the PA-1 gene(s), SalI and PvuII deletion derivatives of pSRQ11.1 and pSRQ11.2 were obtained (Figure 2). The SalI deletion of pSRQ11.1 retained activity while the PvuII deletion derivatives displayed no zones of inhibition against the indicator strain (Table 2). Both the PvuII and SalI deletion derivatives of pSRQ11.2 expressed no PA-1 activity (Table 2). These data suggested that the bacteriocin gene was located on the approximately 5.6 kbp EcoRI-SalI fragment of pSRQ11.1 as shown in Figure 2A. This 5.6 kbp EcoRI-SalI fragment then was subcloned into the EcoRI and SalI restriction sites on the *Escherichia coli* plasmid pBR322 (Bolivar et al., Gene 2:95-113 (1977)), and the resulting chimeric plasmid was designated pSRQ220 (Figure 3A). The *Escherichia coli* strain containing pSRQ220 was assayed and found to express bacteriocin activity. Two additional deletion derivatives of pSRQ220, i.e., a plasmid derivative lacking a 2.7 kbp HindIII fragment and a plasmid derivative lacking a 1.3 kbp HindIII-SalI fragment (Figure 3B), were assayed and both found to be negative for PA-1 activity. Also the following deletion derivatives were obtained: pSRQ210, which consisted of the pSRQ11, XbaI-SalI fragment cloned into *E. coli*

vector pACYC184 (Chang, A. C. Y., et al., J. Bacteriol. 134:1141-1156 (1978)), and pSRQ211, which consisted of pSRQ11 HindIII fragment c (from map coordinates 1.5 to 4.2, Figure 1) also cloned into pACYC184. Neither of these two strains expressed PA-1 activity. Together with the bacteriocin PA-1 negative PvuII and ClaI deletion derivatives (Figures 2A, and 3B (Table 2)), these results show that several genes, or one very long gene (or operon), present on the 5.6 kbp EcoRI-SalI fragment, are responsible for PA-1 activity.

Example 4

Insertional inactivation of bacteriocin PA-1 production.

Since the XbaI restriction site is unique on both pSRQ11 and pSRQ220 and lies within the region involved in PA-1 production, it was chosen as a site to insert a foreign DNA fragment and interrupt transcription of the bacteriocin gene. Plasmid pACYC184, approximately 4 kbp in size and also containing a single XbaI site, was cloned into the XbaI site on pSRQ220. The strain containing the resulting recombinant plasmid, pSRQ221, was assayed for PA-1 activity and proved negative (Table 2). When the pACYC184 insert was removed by XbaI digestion, followed by religation, resulting in pSRQ 221.1, activity was once again restored. Another construct where the XbaI-EcoRI fragment of pSRQ220 was replaced by the XbaI-EcoRI fragment of pACYC184 also was negative for bacteriocin activity (Table 2).

Example 5

Nucleotide sequence analysis of pSRQ220.

The DNA sequence of the 5.6 kbp SalI-EcoRI DNA fragment, as present on plasmid pSRQ220, was established by the Sanger dideoxy chain termination procedure (Sanger, F., Nicklen, S., and Coulson, A. R., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 74:5463-3967 (1977)) with the modifications as described by Biggin et al (Biggin, M.D. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 80:3963-3965 (1983)), using alpha-^{35}S-dATP (2000 Ci/mmol) and Klenow enzyme (Amersham), ddNTP's (Pharmacia-PL Biochemicals) and dNTP's (Boehringer). The sequencing reaction products were separated on a denaturing polyacrylamide gel with a buffer gradient as described by Biggin et al. (Biggin, M. D. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 80:3963-3965 (1983)). Purified, double-stranded plasmid DNA of pSRQ220 served as template in the sequence reaction, following the procedure described by Hattori and Sakaki (Hattori, M., and Sakaki, Y., Anal. Biochem. 152: 232-238 (1986)). Deoxy-oligonucleotide primers were synthesized on a DNA-synthesizer (Applied Biosystems 380A) using the Phosphoamidit technique (Barone, A. D. et al., Nucleic Acid Research, 12:4051-4061 (1984)).

The DNA sequence when translated in all possible reading frames revealed at least three open reading frames (Fig. 4). The first open reading frame (ORF 1) encodes a protein which consists of 62 amino acid residues followed by a TAG stop codon (Fig. 4). The second open reading frame (ORF 2), positioned just downstream of ORF 1, codes for a protein which consists of 112 amino acid residues followed by a TAG stop codon (Fig. 4). Further downstream the third open reading frame (ORF 3) predicts a protein consisting of 724 amino acid residues with a TAG stop codon (Fig. 4).

ORF 1 encodes a protein of 62 amino acids of which amino acid residues 19 to 62 correspond entirely with the amino acid sequence of a protein, which was isolated from *P. acidilactici* NRRL-B-18050 called bacteriocin PA-1, and which, when separated on a polyacrylamide gel, inhibited *P. pentosaceus* FBB-63 effectively in an overlay experiment which is the subject of U.S. application Serial No. 514,102 (Fig. 4, and Fig. 5). This proves that ORF 1 encodes a precursor of bacteriocin PA-1, containing an 18 amino acid N-terminal peptide which is cleaved off during the process of synthesis or excretion.

Both the PvuII deletion derivative pSRQ11.13 and the HindIII deletion derivative pSRQ220.2 (Table 2; Figure 3B) result in a loss of PA-1 bacteriocin activity. As these deletions disturb both ORF 2 and ORF 3, or ORF 3 only, but not the PA-1 bacteriocin encoding gene (ORF 1), it can be concluded that also the presence of either ORF 2 or ORF 3, or both is necessary for PA-1 bacteriocin activity.

Example 6

Site-specific mutagenesis of genes involved in PA-1 bacteriocin production.

The specific role in PA-1 bacteriocin production of each of the open reading frames was determined by introduction of frameshift mutations in the various genes.

Plasmid pSRQ220 contains two sites for the restriction enzyme BalI. One is situated in the pBR332-part of the plasmid, whereas the other is positioned within ORF 1 which encodes the PA-1 bacteriocin (Figure 3A, and 3B). A frameshift mutation in ORF 1 was introduced by insertion of a double-stranded oligonucleotide linker fragment with the

sequence 5'-TGCATGGATCCTGATC-3' into this BalI-site. Plasmid pSRQ220 was therefore partially digested with BalI, generating linear blunt-ended DNA molecules. This was achieved by incubation of the plasmid DNA in a restriction buffer for a short time period using only low amounts of the restriction enzyme. The linker fragment was added and allowed to ligate with the BalI-treated vector DNA. Insertion of the linker fragment disrupts the BalI site, but introduces a new and unique BamHI site into the plasmid, that was used for identification of the desired mutant. After transformation of the ligation mixture, plasmid DNA was isolated from the transformants and screened for the presence of a BamHI site, concomitant with the loss of a BalI site. In this way plasmid pUR5217 was identified which carried the desired linker insertion within ORF 1. Introduction of the mutation was confirmed by determination of the nucleotide sequence around the restriction site of the mutant. E. coli cells containing pUR5217 were assayed for PA-1 bacteriocin activity and found to have lost this property. This result is in good agreement with the previous obtained deletion data and it again proves that the presence of ORF 1 is essential for PA-1 activity. Restriction enzyme HindIII has only two restriction sites in pSRQ220, one of which is positioned in ORF 2, while the other is positioned in ORF 3 (Figure 3B). These sites were therefore well suited for introduction of mutations in these genes. Plasmid pSRQ220 was partially digested with HindIII, as described above. To fill in the 3'-restriction ends Klenow enzyme and a mixture of the four dNTP's (A, T, G, C, 1mM each) were added to the DNA-sample, followed by incubation at 37°C for 30 minutes. After ligation for 16 hours at 15°C the DNA-mixture was transformed to *E. coli* 294. Plasmid DNA was isolated from the transformants and screened for the loss of the HindIII restriction sites by digesting with HindIII. Introduction of the mutations was confirmed by determination of the nucleotide sequence around the restriction site of each mutant. In this way plasmid pUR5206 which carried a mutation at the HindIII site in ORF 2, and plasmid pUR5205 which carried a mutation at the HindIII site in ORF 3 were identified. *E. coli* cells containing pUR5206 were assayed and found to express PA-1 bacteriocin activity, whereas *E. coli* cells containing pUR5205 were negative for PA-1 bacteriocin activity. From these data it can be concluded that, besides the presence of the PA-1 bacteriocin gene (ORF 1), also the presence of an intact ORF 3 is needed for PA-1 bacteriocin activity. The function of ORF 2 is not known. Although *E. coli* cells containing pUR5206 are able to produce bacteriocin PA-1 activity, it cannot be ruled out that ORF 2 is involved in the secretion or processing of bacteriocin PA-1. From the nucleotide sequence analysis some other tentative open reading frames can be deduced (data not shown). Therefore it is possible that other information is present on the 5.6 kbp EcoRI-SalI fragment which is also needed for PA-1 bacteriocin activity.

It is intended that the foregoing description be only illustrative of the present invention and the present invention is limited only by the hereinafter appended claims.

APPENDIX 1

Sequence Listing

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT: J.D. Marugg, A.M. Ledeboer, P.A. Vandenbergh and J.T. Henderson

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Cloned Gene Encoding for Bacteriocin From Pediococcus acidilactici

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 1

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

(A) ADDRESSEE: Ian C. McLeod
(B) STREET: 2190 Commons Parkway
(C) CITY: Okemos
(D) STATE: Hichigan
(E) COUNTRY: USA
(F) ZIP: 48864

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette, 3.50 inch, 1.44 Mb storage
(B) COMPUTER: IBM AT
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS 4.01
(D) SOFTWARE: ASCII text editor

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 07/635,965
(B) FILING DATE: December 31, 1990
(C) CLASSIFICATION: Unknown

(vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
(B) FILING DATE:

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

(A) NAME: Ian C. McLeod
(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 20,931
(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: MT 4:1-129

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

(A) TELEPHONE: (517) 347-4100
(B) TELEFAX: (517) 347-4103
(C) TELEX: None

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 5595
(B) TYPE: Nucleic Acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: Single
(D) TOPOLOGY: Linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: Plasmid DNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: No

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: No

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: N-terminal, internal and C-terminal fragments

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

(A) ORGANISM: Pediococcus acidilactici
(B) STRAIN: NRRL-B-15050
(C) INDIVIDUAL ISOLATE: PAC1.0
(D) DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE: N/A
(E) HAPLOTYPE:
(F) TISSUE TYPE:
(G) CELL TYPE: N/A
(H) CELL LINE: N/A
(I) ORGANELLE: N/A

(vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE: N/A

(viii) POSITION IN GENOME: N/A

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: bacteriocin encoding DNA
(B) LOCATION:
ECORI to SalI
DNA fragment 5.6 kbp.
(C) IDENTIFICATION METHOD: sequencing
(D) OTHER INFORMATION: DNA needed for bacteriocin expression.

(x) PUBLICATION INFORMATION: N/A

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

GTCGACCGGA AATGATCTTT TTAACATCCA AGATAAAGAA AGCAAAATAG CTAAACAGAA 60

GATTGTTAAA TCTGGTAGTA ATAAAGATGG CATACACACA AATAGAGCTA TTAAACGCTG 120

GTGGAAATTC TGGTAAAAGT TAATGTAAGC CTTAAGGTTT CAACTAAAGC AATTACAGTC 180

AACCATAACC ATAGTATTGG ATTGTCATTT TATTGGCTAT AAAATAGTAA ATCAGTGAAT 240

TTCATTACAA AAGGGCTCAC AAAAAATTGT TTTCTTCCTC CAACAATAGC GAGACGCTTT 300

TCTAATTGCT TGACCCAAAG AGCAATAGAA TATTTTGAAG GTCCAAATTA TTCTGTTAAT 360

GATTTAAGTG AACGGCCTTC TTGGTGAAAT TTAACCAATG AATCTTTGAA ATCTTGTGAA 420

TAACGAATTG ACATAAAAAT GCTCCTATAT TTTCATTTTA CGGACTGAAT AAAAATAGTC 480

CATTTTTTTA GTATAAGAGC AGTAAAACCA GACGTGGAAA CCACGTGGTC TTTTAGTTGA 540

TTCAGTAAAA GAAGCCGAAA CCAACGTTTT CACGTTGGTT TCGGCTTCTT TGGCTTTTAA 600

TTGCGGGAAC GCACACAAAG AGCCAAAAAA GATTTGATAA AATCAAAGCT AGAAACTAGC 660

TCCGGTCATG CTTGTTGCGA TCATTATCGC GTAAGTCTTC TACGTGGGCA TCACCACTCG 720

TATCGATATC TAGTTCTTCG CGGCCGACGT TTTCACTTAC TTGTTTCATA TCTTCGTGTT 780

CTTGTTTACG AATGTTAACT TCTTCTCGAA CGACCGGGCG TTTGTTGACA TCGGTAGTTG 840

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CAGCCGCACC ATCTCCGGGC TTTCTTTCGA TCACGATTTC TTCTCGTTTA AAATGAATAT  900

ATAAACTGTG TGATAACTTA AAAGATACTG CGTTGATAGC GAGGTTTCAA AAATTGACGA  960

AGATCGTTAA CCAGTTTTGG TGCGAAAATA TCTAACTAAT ACTTGACATT TAAATTGAGT 1020

GGGAACTAGA ATAAGCGCGT ATTAAGGATA ATTTAAGAAG AAGGAGATTT TTGTG ATG  1078
                                                              Met

AAA AAA ATT GAA AAA TTA ACT GAA AAA GAA ATG GCC AAT ATC ATT GGT    1126
Lys Lys Ile Glu Lys Leu Thr Glu Lys Glu Met Ala Asn Ile Ile Gly
       -15                 -10                 -5

GGT AAA TAC TAC GGT AAT GGG GTT ACT TGT GGC AAA CAT TCC TGC TCT    1174
Gly Lys Tyr Tyr Gly Asn Gly Val Thr Cys Gly Lys His Ser Cys Ser
    1               5                  10                  15

GTT GAC TGG GGT AAG GCT ACC ACT TGC ATA ATC AAT AAT GGA GCT ATG    1222
Val Asp Trp Gly Lys Ala Thr Thr Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Gly Ala Met
                20                  25                  30

GCA TGG GCT ACT GGT GGA CAT CAA GGT AAT CAT AAA TGC                1261
Ala Trp Ala Thr Gly Gly His Gln Gly Asn His Lys Cys
            35                  40

TAGCATTATG CTGAGCTGGC ATCAATAAAG GGGTGATTTT ATG AAT AAG ACT AAG    1316
                                            Met Asn Lys Thr Lys
                                            1               5

TCG GAA CAT ATT AAA CAA CAA GCT TTG GAC TTA TTT ACT AGG CTA CAG    1364
Ser Glu His Ile Lys Gln Gln Ala Leu Asp Leu Phe Thr Arg Leu Gln
                10                  15                  20

TTT TTA CTA CAG AAG CAC GAT ACT ATC GAA CCT TAC CAG TAC GTT TTA    1412
Phe Leu Leu Gln Lys His Asp Thr Ile Glu Pro Tyr Gln Tyr Val Leu
            25                  30                  35

GAT ATT CTG GAG ACT GGT ATC AGT AAA ACT AAA CAT AAC CAG CAA ACG    1460
Asp Ile Leu Glu Thr Gly Ile Ser Lys Thr Lys His Asn Gln Gln Thr
        40                  45                  50

CCT GAA CGA CAA GCT CGT GTA GTC TAC AAC AAG ATT GCC AGC CAA GCG    1508
Pro Glu Arg Gln Ala Arg Val Val Tyr Asn Lys Ile Ala Ser Gln Ala
    55                  60                  65

TTA GTA GAT AAG TTA CAT TTT ACT GCC GAA GAA AAC AAA GTT CTA GCA    1556
Leu Val Asp Lys Leu His Phe Thr Ala Glu Glu Asn Lys Val Leu Ala
70                  75                  80                  85

GCC ATC AAT GAA TTG GCG CAT TCT CAA AAA GGG TGG GGC GAG TTT AAC    1604
Ala Ile Asn Glu Leu Ala His Ser Gln Lys Gly Trp Gly Glu Phe Asn
                90                  95                  100
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                    90                  95                  100

ATG CTA GAT ACT ACC AAT ACG TGG CCT AGC CAA TAGTACTGAT AAAGGGGATA 1657
Met Leu Asp Thr Thr Asn Thr Trp Pro Ser Gln
            105                 110

TTGTAGTTGT CTAAGAAATT TTGGTCAAAT ATCTTTTTAG CATTAGGCGT CTTTCTTGCT 1717

TTTGCAGGAG TTGCTACCAT ATCGGTGAGT GCTGACAGTT CCGCTACTAT AGAATCAAAT 1777

ACTAGCTCGA AAATCATCGA TGGTGCAACT TATGAAGAAA ACATCAGGGG CGTTATTCCT 1837

ATTACGCTAA CTCAATATTT GCATAAAGCT CAAACTGGAG AAAAATTTAT TGTCTTTGTC 1897

GGGTTCAAGG AGTGTGTGCA TTGTCGTAAA TTTTCTCCAG TCATGAAACA GTACTTACAA 1957

CAAAGTCAGC ATCCCATTTA TTACTTAGAC TATGGGAACA ACGGGTCTTT CAGCATGGCT 2017

TCTCAAAAAC AAATAACTGA TTTCTATTCA ACTTTTGCAA CCCCCATGAG TTTTATGGGA 2077

ACGCCAACTG TTGCCTTGCT CGATAATGGT AAGGTGGTAT CAATGACCGC TGGTGATGAT 2137

ACCACTTTAT CTGATTTACA ACAGATTACT GCTGATTACA ATAATCAGTA GTCAGCTGGT 2197

TAATATGGTT TTGTAACCAA TGTAAAAGGC GATGGATCTT TGAAATCGTC TTTTTTTATG 2257

CACAAATTTT AAAGATCGGT GGTTTGCTT ATG TGG ACT CAA AAA TGG CAC AAA   2310
                                Met Trp Thr Gln Lys Trp His Lys
                                1               5

TAT TAT ACA GCA CAA GTT GAT GAA AAT GAC TGT GGT TTA GCT GCA CTA   2358
Tyr Tyr Thr Ala Gln Val Asp Glu Asn Asp Cys Gly Leu Ala Ala Leu
    10                  15                  20

AAT ATG ATC CTA AAA TAC TAT GGC TCC GAT TAC ATG TTG GCC CAT CTT   2406
Asn Met Ile Leu Lys Tyr Tyr Gly Ser Asp Tyr Met Leu Ala His Leu
25                  30                  35                  40

CGA CAG CTT GCC AAA ACA ACT GCT GAC GGT ACA ACT GTT TTG GGG CTT   2454
Arg Gln Leu Ala Lys Thr Thr Ala Asp Gly Thr Thr Val Leu Gly Leu
                45                  50                  55

GTT AAA GCA GCA AAA CAC TTA AAT TTA AAT GCC GAA GCT GTG CGT GCT   2502
Val Lys Ala Ala Lys His Leu Asn Leu Asn Ala Glu Ala Val Arg Ala
            60                  65                  70

GAT ATG GAT GCT TTG ACA GCC TCA CAA TTG CCA TTA CCA GTC ATT GTT   2550
Asp Met Asp Ala Leu Thr Ala Ser Gln Leu Pro Leu Pro Val Ile Val
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                75                  80                  85

CAT GTA TTC AAG AAA AAT AAG TTA CCA CAC TAC TAT GTT GTC TAT CAG   2598
His Val Phe Lys Lys Asn Lys Leu Pro His Tyr Tyr Val Val Tyr Gln
    90                  95                  100

GTA ACT GAA AAC GAT TTA ATT ATT GGT GAT CCT GAT CCA ACC GTT AAA   2646
Val Thr Glu Asn Asp Leu Ile Ile Gly Asp Pro Asp Pro Thr Val Lys
105                 110                 115                 120

ACC ACT AAA ATA TCG AAA TCA CAA TTT GCT AAA GAA TGG ACC CAG ATT   2694
Thr Thr Lys Ile Ser Lys Ser Gln Phe Ala Lys Glu Trp Thr Gln Ile
                125                 130                 135

GCA ATT ATC ATA GCC CCA ACA GTT AAA TAT AAA CCC ATA AAA GAA TCA   2742
Ala Ile Ile Ile Ala Pro Thr Val Lys Tyr Lys Pro Ile Lys Glu Ser
            140                 145                 150

CGG CAC ACA TTA ATT GAT CTA GTG CCT TTA TTG ATT AAA CAA AAA AGA   2790
Arg His Thr Leu Ile Asp Leu Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Lys Gln Lys Arg
        155                 160                 165

TTA ATT GGA CTA ATT ATT ACC GCA GCA GCT ATA ACA ACA TTA ATC AGT   2838
Leu Ile Gly Leu Ile Ile Thr Ala Ala Ala Ile Thr Thr Leu Ile Ser.
    170                 175                 180

ATT GCT GGT GCA TAT TTC TTT CAG TTA ATT ATC GAT ACT TAT TTG CCG   2886
Ile Ala Gly Ala Tyr Phe Phe Gln Leu Ile Ile Asp Thr Tyr Leu Pro
185                 190                 195                 200

CAC TTG ATG ACT AAT AGG CTT TCA CTA GTT GCC ATT GGT CTG ATT GTA   2934
His Leu Met Thr Asn Arg Leu Ser Leu Val Ala Ile Gly Leu Ile Val
                205                 210                 215

GCT TAT GCT TTC CAA GCA ATT ATC AAC TAT ATA CAA AGT TTT TTT ACG   2982
Ala Tyr Ala Phe Gln Ala Ile Ile Asn Tyr Ile Gln Ser Phe Phe Thr
            220                 225                 230

ATT GTA TTA GGA CAA CGT CTC ATG ATC GAC ATC GTT TTA AAA TAC GTT   3030
Ile Val Leu Gly Gln Arg Leu Met Ile Asp Ile Val Leu Lys Tyr Val
        235                 240                 245

CAC CAT CTT TTT GAT TTA CCA ATG AAT TTT TTT ACT ACC CGT CAT GTC   3078
His His Leu Phe Asp Leu Pro Met Asn Phe Phe Thr Thr Arg His Val
    250                 255                 260

GGT GAA ATG ACC TCA CGC TTT TCT GAT GCA AGC AAA ATT ATT GAT GCA   3126
Gly Glu Met Thr Ser Arg Phe Ser Asp Ala Ser Lys Ile Ile Asp Ala
265                 270                 275                 280

GTT GGA AGT ACA ACG GTC ACC GTT TTT TTA GAC ATG TGG ATT TTA TTA   3174
Leu Gly Ser Thr Thr Leu Thr Leu Phe Leu Asp Met Trp Ile Leu Leu
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                    285                 290                 295

GCA GTA GGG TTA ATT TTG GCC TAT CAA AAC ATC AAT TTA TTT TTA TGC   3222
Ala Val Gly Leu Phe Leu Ala Tyr Gln Asn Ile Asn Leu Phe Leu Cys
            300                 305                 310

TCG TTA GTT GTG GTT CCA ATT TAC ATC TCG ATT GTT TGG CTA TTT AAA   3270
Ser Leu Val Val Val Pro Ile Tyr Ile Ser Ile Val Trp Leu Phe Lys
        315                 320                 325

AAA ACT TTT AAT CGT TTA AAT CAA GAT ACA ATG GAA AGC AAT GCA GTT   3318
Lys Thr Phe Asn Arg Leu Asn Gln Asp Thr Met Glu Ser Asn Ala Val
    330                 335                 340

CTT AAT TCT GCT ATT ATT GAA AGT CTC AGT GGC ATA GAA ACC ATT AAA   3366
Leu Asn Ser Ala Ile Ile Glu Ser Leu Ser Gly Ile Glu Thr Ile Lys
345                 350                 355                 360

TCA CTA ACT GGT GAA GCA ACT ACA AAA AAA AAG ATT GAC ACA CTA TTT   3414
Ser Leu Thr Gly Glu Ala Thr Thr Lys Lys Lys Ile Asp Thr Leu Phe
                365                 370                 375

TCT GAC TTA TTG CAT AAA AAC TTG GCT TAT CAA AAA GCT GAT CAA GGA   3462
Ser Asp Leu Leu His Lys Asn Leu Ala Tyr Gln Lys Ala Asp Gln Gly
            380                 385                 390

CAA CAA GCT ATC AAA GCA GCT ACT AAA TTA ATC CTA ACT ATT GTT ATC   3510
Gln Gln Ala Ile Lys Ala Ala Thr Lys Leu Ile Leu Thr Ile Val Ile
        395                 400                 405

CTT TGG TGG GGT ACT TTT TTT GTT ATG CGA CAC CAA CTG TCT TTA GGT   3558
Leu Trp Trp Gly Thr Phe Phe Val Met Arg His Gln Leu Ser Leu Gly
    410                 415                 420

CAG CTG TTA ACT TAT AAT GCT TTG CTC GCT TAC TTC TTG ACC CCA TTA   3606
Gln Leu Leu Thr Tyr Asn Ala Leu Leu Ala Tyr Phe Leu Thr Pro Leu
425                 430                 435                 440

GAA AAT ATT ATT AAT TTA CAG CCT AAA CTA CAA GCT GCC AGA GTG GCT   3654
Glu Asn Ile Ile Asn Leu Gln Pro Lys Leu Gln Ala Ala Arg Val Ala
                445                 450                 455

AAT AAT CGA TTA AAT GAG GTT TAT CTA GTA GAG TCT GAA TTT TCT AAA   3702
Asn Asn Arg Leu Asn Glu Val Tyr Leu Val Glu Ser Glu Phe Ser Lys
            460                 465                 470

TCT AGG GAA ATA ACT GCT CTA GAG CAA CTA AAT GGT GAT ATT GAG GTT   3750
Ser Arg Glu Ile Thr Ala Leu Glu Gln Leu Asn Gly Asp Ile Glu Val
        475                 480                 485

AAT CAT GTT AGT TTT AAC TAT GGC TAT TGT TCT AAT ATA CTT GAG GAT   3798
Asn His Val Ser Phe Asn Tyr Gly Tyr Cys Ser Asn Ile Leu Glu Asp
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    490                 495                 500

GTT TCT CTA ACA ATT CCA CAT CAT CAG AAG ATT ACT ATT GTA GGC ATG   3846
Val Ser Leu Thr Ile Pro His His Gln Lys Ile Thr Ile Val Gly Met
505                 510                 515                 520

AGT GGT TCG GGG AAA ACG ACC CTA GCC AAG TTG CTA GTT GGT TTT TTT   3894
Ser Gly Ser Gly Lys Thr Thr Leu Ala Lys Leu Leu Val Gly Phe Phe
                525                 530                 535

GAG CCT CAA GAA CAG CAC GGT GAA ATT CAG ATT AAT CAT CAC AAT ATA   3942
Glu Pro Gln Glu Gln His Gly Glu Ile Gln Ile Asn His His Asn Ile
            540                 545                 550

TCT GAT ATT AGT CGC ACA ATT TTA CGC CAA TAT ATT AAT TAT GTT CCT   3990
Ser Asp Ile Ser Arg Thr Ile Leu Arg Gln Tyr Ile Asn Tyr Val Pro
        555                 560                 565

CAA GAA CCT TTC ATT TTT TCG GGC TCT GTA TTA GAA AAT TTA TTG TTA   4038
Gln Glu Pro Phe Ile Phe Ser Gly Ser Val Leu Glu Asn Leu Leu Leu
    570                 575                 580

GGT AGC CGT CCT GGA GTA ACT CAA CAA ATG ATT GAT CAA GCT TGT TCC   4086
Gly Ser Arg Pro Gly Val Thr Gln Gln Met Ile Asp Gln Ala Cys Ser
585                 590                 595                 600

TTT GCT GAA ATC AAA ACT GAT ATA GAA AAT TTG CCT CAA GGT TAT CAT   4134
Phe Ala Glu Ile Lys Thr Asp Ile Glu Asn Leu Pro Gln Gly Tyr His
                605                 610                 615

ACT AGA TTA AGT GAA AGT GGA TTC AAC TTA TCT GGT GGG CAA AAA CAG   4182
Thr Arg Leu Ser Glu Ser Gly Phe Asn Leu Ser Gly Gly Gln Lys Gln
            620                 625                 630

CGG TTA TCA ATA GCT AGA GCA TTA TTG TCT CCG GCA CAA TGT TTC ATT   4230
Arg Leu Ser Ile Ala Arg Ala Leu Leu Ser Pro Ala Gln Cys Phe Ile
        635                 640                 645

TTT GAC GAA TCA ACC AGT AAT TTA GAC ACC ATT ACT GAA CAT AAA ATA   4278
Phe Asp Glu Ser Thr Ser Asn Leu Asp Thr Ile Thr Glu His Lys Ile
    650                 655                 660

GTC TCT AAG CTA TTA TTC ATG AAA GAC AAA ACG ATA ATT TTT GTA GCA   4326
Val Ser Lys Leu Leu Phe Met Lys Asp Lys Thr Ile Ile Phe Val Ala
665                 670                 675                 680

CAT CGT CTC AAT ATT GCG TCT CAA ACC GAT AAA GTT GTC GTT CTT GAT   4374
His Arg Leu Asn Ile Ala Ser Gln Thr Asp Lys Val Val Val Leu Asp
                685                 690                 695

CAT GGA AAG ATT GTT GAA CAG GGA TCA CAT CGA CAA TTG TTA AAT TAT   4422
His Gly Lys Ile Val Glu Gln Gly Ser His Arg Gln Leu Leu Asn Tyr
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                    700                 705                 710

AAT GGG TAT TAT GCA CGG TTA ATT CAT AAT CAA GAA TAGCCT GACAAGAACC 4474
Asn Gly Tyr Tyr Ala Arg Leu Ile His Asn Gln Glu
        715                 720

AGTCTGCTAT TGATAGACTA TTCTTGTCCG TGAAATCCTC GCGTATTTCC GTGAGGAGCA 4534

TAGTATATTT AGCGATCTTC AAATTTTAAG TATATTGATT CATATGTTTA TCCTCCTAAG 4594

TTTGAGGACA AACCGGTACA TGTTATAAATA CTTCTACCGG CTTGTCCGGT GTCTGGAGCA 4654

TTACCACATC CTTTCTGGGA TAGAGGTAAT GCTCTTCTAA AGTGCGCTTA AATAACCATT 4714

GCCAGTGGTT AATCAGTGCT TTAACATGTT GCGTAAGTCA TTGAGGGTGT CGGATTCCAC 4774

GGCCTCAATG ACTTTTTTTG TGCCTTATAA TTAAAGGTGT TAAAATACGT CGTAACTTAC 4834

CACCATAAAG CAGTCCAATT AATTTATTGA CTTCTAAGTA AAATACCAGG AGTTTTGCTA 4894

TGAGTTAACT ATGATCCTGG GTGGTCACTA AAACATTCCT TAATTCAGGG TCTATAACTA 4954

TCAAATCGCC CCTCAAAATC ATTGTTAAAA TAACCCCCAA TATCTATAAT GTAGATGTTG 5014

GGGGTTATTT ATTTTAATAT TAAATAAATA ACTTCTTCTA TTTGTCATCA ATACTAAACA 5074

ATAATTTGTA CAAAGTGATT ATTTCTTCTA GTTCTTCACG CGATACATGA TCGACAATAG 5134

TTTCATCAGT GACATGTCTT GCCCGTAAAT CTAAGGCTAT GGTTTGATCT AATAATACTT 5194

TTCCATATAC TGTTTGACTA CTAGTTAGTC GATGATACAT TGGAAAATTA CGCTTGGTAC 5254

TGCTAATTGG AGCCGCAATC GTCATGTTAC TTGTCTGACA GACTAGATCA TTGCTTAGCG 5314

CAATGGCTGG TCGCTTATTC ATCTGTTCAT GACCACGGCT TGGATTAAAG TTAACATAAA 5374

ATATATCACC TTGGCTTACC ATTGAAGTTC ATTACCTTCT GACTTTCCCC AATCAAGCTC 5434

GTGATCCCTT TTCCCGTCAT CTTGCCAATC CTTAAATAGT TCGTGAATAT TGGTTGGGTT 5494

CTTTTTTATT GGTGTTAAAA CAATTGATCC ATTTTCAATG GTTATTGTCA TATCTTGGTT 5554

ATCATCTAAT TTCAGTTGTT TAATAATTTG GCTAGGAATT C                      5595
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Claims

1. A nucleotide sequence corresponding to the nucleotide sequence which can be isolated from a strain belonging to the genus Pediococcus, consisting of genes coding for both a bacteriocin precursor which is ORF1 and a gene for at least one protein selected from the group consisting of ORF2, ORF3 and ORF2 and ORF3 as given in Figure 4 and modifications thereof essential for obtaining a functional active bacteriocin.

2. The nucleotide sequence according to Claim 1, in which the Pediococcus is *Pediococcus acidilactici*.

3. The nucleotide sequence according to Claim 2, in which the Pediococcus is *Pediococcus acidilactici* NRRL-B-18050.

4. The nucleotide sequence according to Claim 1 containing the three open reading frames, ORF1, ORF2 and ORF3 as given in Figure 4, and derived from the plasmid pSRQ11.

5. The nucleotide sequence according to any preceding Claim 1 to 4, containing in addition transcriptional and translational initiation and termination sequences of open reading frames as given in Figure 4.

6. A nucleotide sequence encoding only a bacteriocin precursor, said nucleic acid being selected from the group consisting of ORF1 in Figure 4, and modifications thereof that encode a protein still having the capability of being converted into an active bacteriocin.

7. A vector, that can be stably maintained in a host microorganism, which vector can be maintained as a plasmid or can integrate into a chromosome of the host microorganism, comprising a nucleotide sequence according to any preceding Claim 1 to 6.

8. The vector according to Claim 7, in which the nucleotide sequence contains open reading frames ORF1 and ORF3, and optionally ORF2 as given in Figure 4.

9. A vector according to Claim 7, which comprises modified versions of any of ORF1, ORF2 and ORF3 as given in Figure 4, that encode a protein still having the capability of being converted into an active bacteriocin.

10. The vector according to Claim 7 containing ORF1, and optionally ORF2 or ORF3 or both, as given in Figure 4, in which the ORFs are under control of one or more promotor systems functional in said host microorganism and at least after the most downstream ORF of ORF1, ORF2 or ORF3 a terminator sequence is present, wherein the ORF1 can have a promotor system, optionally followed by a terminator sequence, or ORF1 can form part of an operon containing ORF2 or ORF3, or ORF2 and ORF3 together.

11. A microorganism transformed by introducing a vector according to any preceding Claim 7 to 10, capable of producing a bacteriocin.

12. A microorganism according to Claim 11 selected from the group consisting of the genera *Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Leuconostoc, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Escherichia,* and yeasts.

13. The vector of claim 7 that replicates or is stably maintained, in the microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Leuconostoc, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Escherichia,* and yeasts.

14. A nucleotide sequence encoding a protein essential for obtaining a functional active bacteriocin, said nucleotide sequence being ORF3 in Figure 4, or a modification thereof that encodes a protein still having the capability of assisting in production of an active bacteriocin.

15. A nucleotide sequence encoding a protein, said nucleotide sequence being ORF2 as given in Figure 4, or a modification thereof that encodes a protein still having the function of the protein encoded by ORF2 in producing the functionally active bacteriocin.

16. The nucleotide sequence of Claim 1 derived by a polymerase chain reaction method.

17. A nucleotide sequence encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

ORF1, ORF2 or ORF3 as given in Figure 4 and modifications thereof capable of encoding proteins which function in the manner of ORF1, ORF2 or ORF3.

Patentansprüche

1. Nucleotidsequenz, die der Nucleotidsequenz entspricht, die aus einem zur Gattung Pediococcus gehörenden Stamm isoliert werden kann, und aus Genen besteht, die sowohl einen Bacteriocin-Vorläufer codieren, ORF1, als auch aus einem Gen für mindestens ein Protein, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe bestehend aus ORF2, ORF3, ORF2 und ORF3, wie in Figur 4 dargestellt,und Modifikationen davon, das für den Erhalt eines funktionsaktiven Bacteriocins wesentlich ist.

2. Nucleotidsequenz gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei Pediococcus *Pediococcus acidilactici* ist.

3. Nucleotidsequenz gemäß Anspruch 2, wobei Pediococcus *Pediococcus acidilactici* NRRL-B-18050 ist.

4. Nucleotidsequenz gemäß Anspruch 1, die die drei in Figur 4 dargestellten offenen Leseraster ORF1, ORF2 und ORF3 enthält und vom Plasmid pSRQ11 abgeleitet ist.

5. Nucleotidsequenz gemäß einem der vorangegangenen Ansprüche 1 bis 4, die zusätzlich Transcriptions- und Translationsinitiations- und -terminationssequenzen für die in Figur 4 dargestellten offenen Leseraster enthält.

6. Nucleotidsequenz, die nur einen Bacteriocin-Vorläufer codiert, wobei die Nucleinsäure aus der Gruppe ausgewählt ist, die aus ORF1 in Figur 4, und Modifikationen davon besteht, die ein Protein codieren, das noch in ein aktives Bacteriocin umgewandelt werden kann.

7. Vektor, der in einem Wirtsmikroorganismus stabil erhalten werden kann, wobei dieser Vektor als ein Plasmid erhalten werden kann oder sich in ein Chromosom des Wirtsmikroorganismus integrieren kann, der eine Nucleotidsequenz gemäß einem der voranstehenden Ansprüche 1 bis 6 enthält.

8. Vektor gemäß Anspruch 7, wobei die Nucleotidsequenz die offenen Leseraster ORF1 und ORF3 und wahlweise ORF2 enthält, wie in Figur 4 dargestellt.

9. Vektor gemäß Anspruch 7, der modifizierte Versionen von ORF1, ORF2 oder ORF3, wie in Figur 4 dargestellt, umfaßt, die ein Protein codieren, das noch in ein aktives Bacteriocin umgewandelt werden kann.

10. Vektor gemäß Anspruch 7, der ORF1 und wahlweise ORF2 und/oder ORF3, wie in Figur 4 dargestellt, enthält, in dem die ORFs von einem oder mehreren Promotorsystemen kontrolliert werden, die im genannten Wirtsmikroorganismus funktionsfähig sind, und in dem zumindest nach dem am weitesten stromabwärts gelegenen ORF von ORF1, ORF2 oder ORF3 eine Terminationssequenz vorhanden ist, wobei ORF1 ein Promotorsystem haben kann, worauf wahlweise eine Terminationssequenz folgt, oder ORF1 einen Teil eines Operons bilden kann, das ORF2 oder ORF3, oder ORF2 und ORF3 zusammen, enthält.

11. Mikroorganismus, transformiert durch Einführung eines Vektors gemäß einem der vorangegangenen Ansprüche 7 bis 10, der in der Lage ist, ein Bacteriocin zu produzieren.

12. Mikroorganismus gemäß Anspruch 11, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die aus den Gattungen *Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Leuconostoc, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Escherichia* und Hefen besteht.

13. Vektor nach Anspruch 7, der sich in dem Mikroorganismus, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die aus den Gattungen *Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Leuconostoc, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Escherichia* und Hefen besteht, repliziert oder stabil erhalten wird.

14. Nucleotidsequenz, die ein Protein codiert, das wesentlich für den Erhalt eines funktionsaktiven Bacteriocins ist, wobei die genannte Nucleotidsequenz ORF3 in Figur 4 oder eine Modifikation davon ist, die ein Protein codiert, das noch die Fähigkeit besitzt, bei der Produktion eines aktiven Bacteriocins zu assistieren.

15. Nucleotidsequenz, die ein Protein codiert, wobei die genannte Nucleotidsequenz ORF2, wie in Figur 4 dargestellt,

oder eine Modifikation davon ist, die ein Protein codiert, das noch die Funktion des durch ORF2 codierten Proteins bei der Herstellung des funktionsaktiven Bacteriocins ausübt.

16. Nucleotidsequenz von Anspruch 1, gewonnen durch ein Polymerase-Kettenreaktionsverfahren.

17. Nucleotidsequenz, die ein Protein mit einer Aminosäuresequenz codiert, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus ORF1, ORF2 oder ORF3, wie in Figur 4 dargestellt, und Modifikationen davon, die zur Codierung von Proteinen fähig sind, die in der Weise von ORF1, ORF2 oder ORF3 funktionieren.

Revendications

1. Séquence de nucléotides correspondant à la séquence de nucléotides qui peut être isolée d'une souche appartenant au genre Pediococcus, consistant en gènes codant pour un précurseur de bactériocine qui est le précurseur ORF 1 et un gène pour au moins une protéine choisie dans le groupe consistant en ORF2, ORF3 et ORF2 et ORF3 de la manière représentée sur la Figure 4 et leurs modifications essentielles pour obtenir une bactériocine active fonctionnelle.

2. Séquence de nucléotides suivant la revendication 1, dans laquelle le Pediococcus consiste en Pediococcus acidilactici.

3. Séquence de nucléotides suivant la revendication 2, dans laquelle le Pediococcus consiste en Pediococcus acidilactici NRRL-B-18050.

4. Séquence de nucléotides suivant la revendication 1, contenant les trois cadres de lecture ouverts ORF1, ORF2 et ORF3 de la manière représentée sur la Figure 4, et dérivés du plasmide pSRQ11.

5. Séquence de nucléotides suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4 précédentes, contenant en outre des séquences d'initiation et de terminaison de transcription et de traduction des cadres de lecture ouverts, de la manière représentée sur la Figure 4.

6. Séquence de nucléotides codant seulement pour un précurseur de bactériocine, ledit acide nucléique étant choisi dans le groupe consistant en ORF1 sur la Figure 4 et ses modifications qui codent pour une protéine ayant encore la capacité d'être transformée en une bactériocine active.

7. Vecteur qui peut être maintenu de manière stable dans un micro-organisme hôte, ce vecteur pouvant être maintenu sous forme d'un plasmide ou bien pouvant s'intégrer dans un chromosome du micro-organisme hôte, comprenant une séquence de nucléotides suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6 précédentes.

8. Vecteur suivant la revendication 7, dans lequel la séquence de nucléotides contient les cadres de lecture ouverts ORF1 et ORF3 et, facultativement, ORF2, de la manière représentée sur la Figure 4.

9. Vecteur suivant la revendication 7, qui comprend des variantes modifiées de n'importe lesquels de ORF1, ORF2 et ORF3 de la manière représentée sur la Figure 4, qui codent pour une protéine ayant encore la capacité d'être transformée en une bactériocine active.

10. Vecteur suivant la revendication 7, contenant ORF1, et facultativement ORF2 ou ORF3 ou bien à la fois ORF2 et ORF3, de la manière représentée sur la Figure 4, dans lequel les ORF sont sous le contrôle d'un ou plusieurs systèmes promoteurs fonctionnels dans ledit micro-organisme hôte et, au moins après le ORF le plus en aval de ORF1, ORF2 ou ORF3, une séquence de terminaison est présente, le ORF1 pouvant comporter un système de promoteur, suivi facultativement par une séquence de terminaison, ou bien ORF1 pouvant former une partie d'un opéron contenant ORF2 ou ORF3, ou bien à la fois ORF2 et ORF3.

11. Micro-organisme transformé par introduction d'un vecteur suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 7 à 10 précédentes, capable de produire une bactériocine.

12. Micro-organisme suivant la revendication 11, choisi dans le groupe consistant en les genres Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Leuconostoc, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Escherichia et des levures.

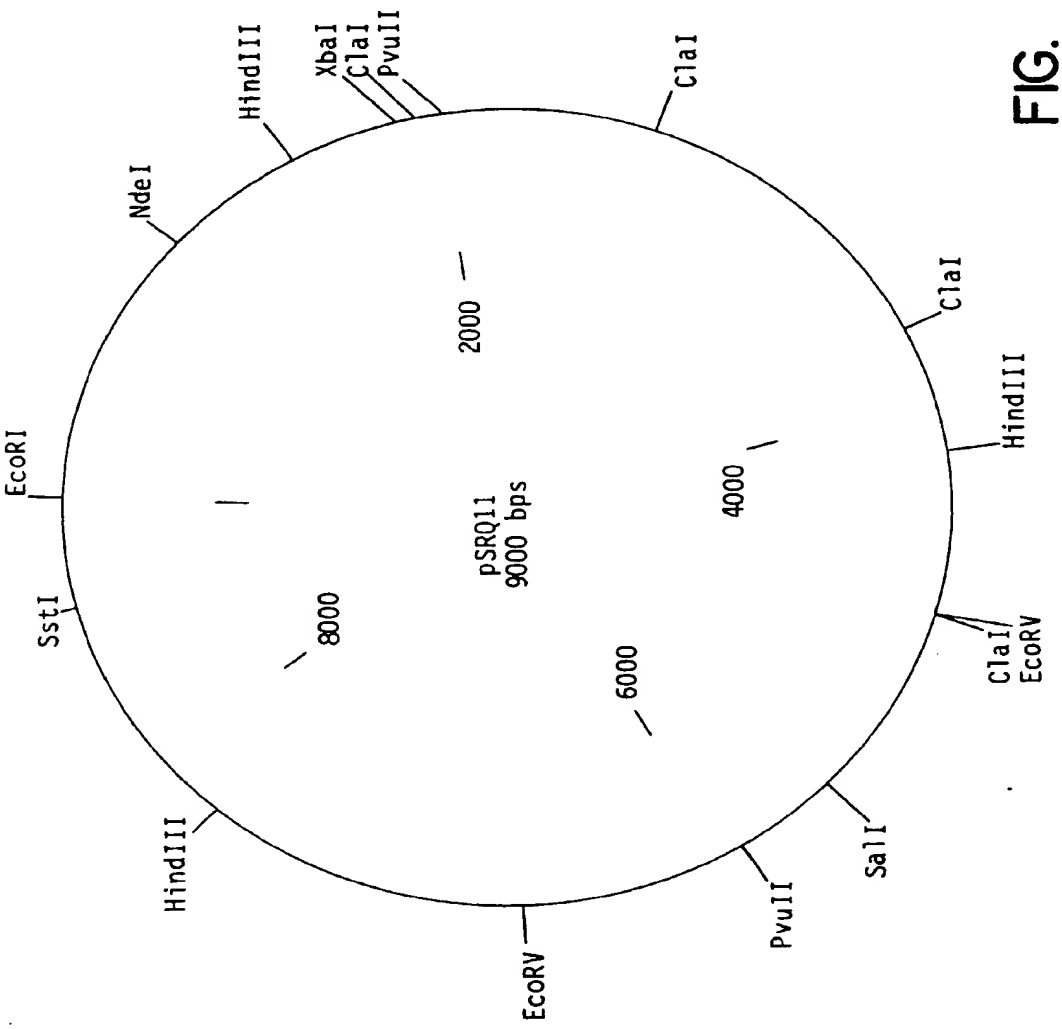
13. Vecteur suivant la revendication 7, qui présente une réplication ou qui est maintenu de manière stable dans le micro-organisme choisi dans le groupe consistant en les genres Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Leuconostoc, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Escherichia et des levures.

14. Séquence de nucléotides codant pour une protéine essentielle pour l'obtention d'une bactériocine active fonctionnelle, ladite séquence de nucléotides étant la séquence ORF3 sur la Figure 4, ou une de ses modifications qui code pour une protéine ayant encore la capacité de faciliter la production d'une bactériocine active.

15. Séquence de nucléotides codant pour une protéine, ladite séquence de nucléotides consistant en la séquence ORF2 représentée sur la Figure 4, ou une de ses modifications qui code pour une protéine ayant encore la fonction de la protéine codée par ORF2 dans la production de la bactériocine fonctionnellement active.

16. Séquence de nucléotides suivant la revendication 1, obtenue par un processus de réaction en chaîne avec une polymérase.

17. Séquence de nucléotides codant pour une protéine ayant une séquence d'amino-acides choisie dans le groupe consistant en ORF1, ORF2 et ORF3 de la manière représentée sur la Figure 4 et leurs modifications capables de coder pour des protéines qui fonctionnent comme ORF1, ORF2 ou ORF3.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XbaI
ClaI
PvuII
ClaI
NdeI
ClaI
EcoRI
HindIII
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pSRQ11
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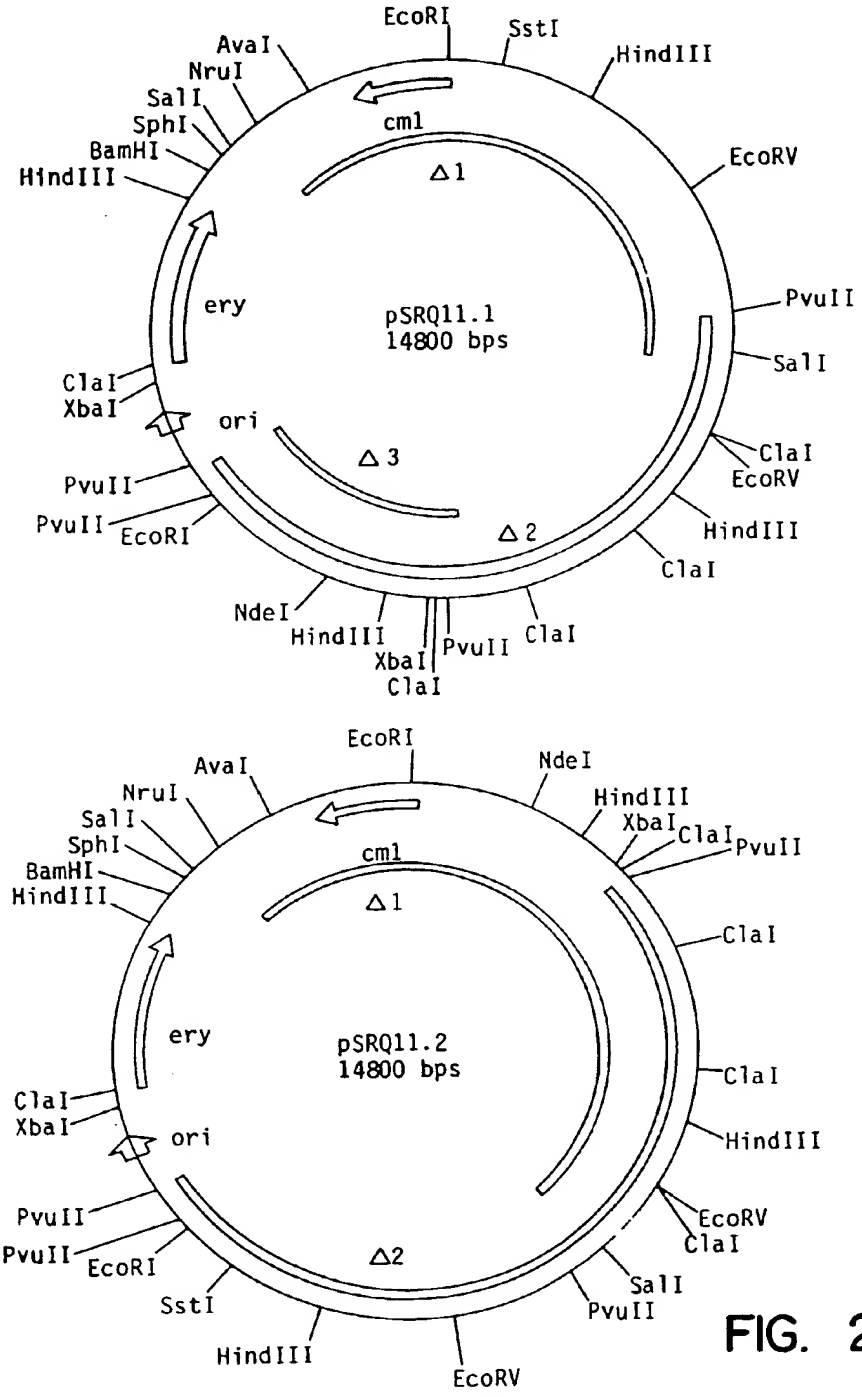
4000
SstI
8000
ClaI
EcoRV
6000
HindIII
SalI
EcoRV
PvuII

FIG. 1


pSRQ11.1
14800 bps
cm1
Δ1
Δ2
Δ3
ery
ori
EcoRI
SstI
HindIII
EcoRV
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SalI
ClaI
EcoRV
HindIII
ClaI
PvuII
ClaI
XbaI
ClaI
NdeI
HindIII
XbaI
ClaI
PvuII
EcoRI
PvuII
ClaI
XbaI
AvaI
NruI
SalI
SphI
BamHI
HindIII
pSRQ11.2
14800 bps
cm1
Δ1
Δ2
ery
ori
EcoRI
NdeI
HindIII
XbaI
ClaI
PvuII
ClaI
ClaI
HindIII
EcoRV
ClaI
SalI
PvuII
EcoRV
HindIII
SstI
EcoRI
PvuII
PvuII
ClaI
XbaI
AvaI
NruI
SalI
SphI
BamHI
HindIII

FIG. 2

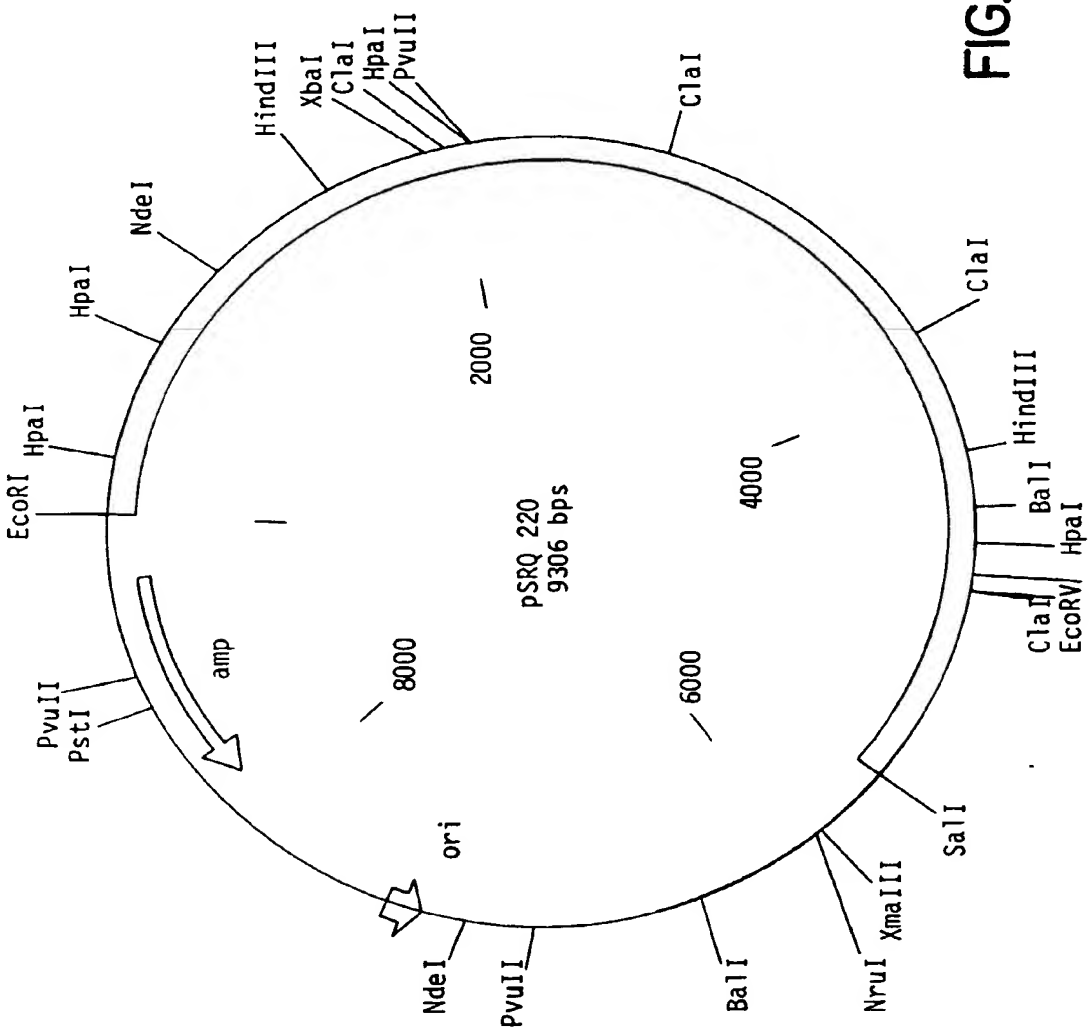
pSRQ 220
9306 bps
2000
4000
6000
8000
amp
ori
HindIII
XbaI
ClaI
HpaI
PvuII
ClaI
ClaI
HindIII
BalI
HpaI
ClaI
EcoRV
SalI
XmaIII
NruI
BalI
PvuII
NdeI
PvuII
PstI
EcoRI
HpaI
HpaI
NdeI

FIG. 3A

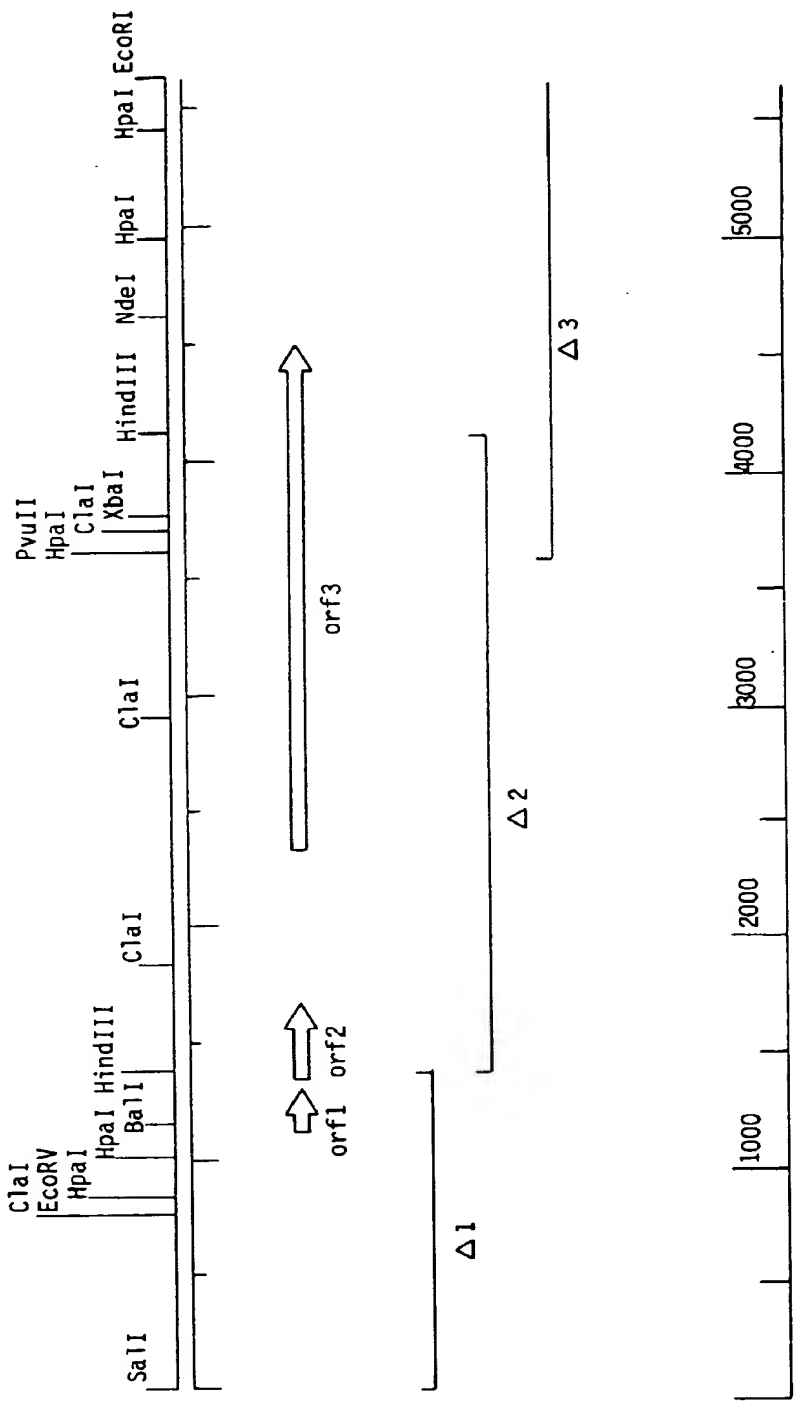
ClaI
EcoRV
HpaI
HpaI
BalI
HindIII
ClaI
ClaI
PvuII
HpaI
ClaI
XbaI
HindIII
NdeI
HpaI
HpaI
EcoRI
SalI
orf1
orf2
orf3
Δ1
Δ2
Δ3
1000
2000
3000
4000
5000

FIG. 3B

FIG. 4A

SalI

```
GTCGACCGGA AATGATCTTT TTAACATCCA AGATAAAGAA AGCAAAATAG CTAAACAGAA   60

GATTGTTAAA TCTGGTAGTA ATAAAGATGG CATACACACA AATAGAGCTA TTAAACGCTG  120

GTGGAAATTC TGGTAAAAGT TAATGTAAGC CTTAAGGTTT CAACTAAAGC AATTACAGTC  180

AACCATAACC ATAGTATTGG ATTGTCATTT TATTGGCTAT AAAATAGTAA ATCAGTGAAT  240

TTCATTACAA AAGGGCTCAC AAAAAATTGT TTTCTTCCTC CAACAATAGC GAGACGCTTT  300

TCTAATTGCT TGACCCAAAG AGCAATAGAA TATTTTGAAG GTCCAAATTA TTCTGTTAAT  360

GATTTAAGTG AACGGCCTTC TTGGTGAAAT TTAACCAATG AATCTTTGAA ATCTTGTGAA  420

TAACGAATTG ACATAAAAAT GCTCCTATAT TTTCATTTTA CGGACTGAAT AAAAATAGTC  480
```

CATTTTTTTA GTATAAGAGC AGTAAAACCA GACGTGGAAA CCACGTGGTC TTTTAGTTGA 540

TTCAGTAAAA GAAGCCGAAA CCAACGTTTT CACGTTGGTT TCGGCTTCTT TGGCTTTTAA 600

TTGCGGGAAC GCACACAAAG AGCCAAAAAA GATTTGATAA AATCAAAGCT AGAAACTAGC 660

TCCGGTCATG CTTGTTGCGA TCATTATCGC GTAAGTCTTC TACGTGGGCA TCACCACTCG 720

TATCGATATC TAGTTCTTCG CGGCCGACGT TTTCACTTAC TTGTTTCATA TCTTCGTGTT 780

CTTGTTTACG AATGTTAACT TCTTCTCGAA CGACCGGGCG TTTGTTGACA TCGGTAGTTG 840

CAGCCGCACC ATCTCCGGGC TTTCTTTCGA TCACGATTTC TTCTCGTTTA AAATGAATAT 900

FIG. 4B

```
ATAAACTGTG TCATAACTTA AAAGATACTG CGTTGATAGC CAGGTTTCAA AAATTGACCA  960

AGATCGTTAA CCAGTTTTGG TGCGAAAATA TCTAACTAAT ACTTGACATT TAAATTGAGT 1020

                                                          ORF1

GGGAACTAGA ATAAGCGCGT ATTAAGGATA ATTTAAGAAG AAGGAGATTT TTGTG ATG  1078
                                                              Met

AAA AAA ATT GAA AAA TTA ACT GAA AAA GAA ATG GCC AAT ATC ATT GGT    1126
Lys Lys Ile Glu Lys Leu Thr Glu Lys Glu Met Ala Asn Ile Ile Gly
       -15                 -10                 -5

GGT AAA TAC TAC GGT AAT GGG GTT ACT TGT GGC AAA CAT TCC TGC TCT    1174
Gly Lys Tyr Tyr Gly Asn Gly Val Thr Cys Gly Lys His Ser Cys Ser
    1               5                  10                  15

GTT GAC TGG GGT AAG GCT ACC ACT TGC ATA ATC AAT AAT GGA GCT ATG    1222
Val Asp Trp Gly Lys Ala Thr Thr Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Gly Ala Met
                20                  25                  30

GCA TGG GCT ACT GGT GGA CAT CAA GGT AAT CAT AAA TGC                1261
Ala Trp Ala Thr Gly Gly His Gln Gly Asn His Lys Cys
            35                  40
```

FIG. 4C

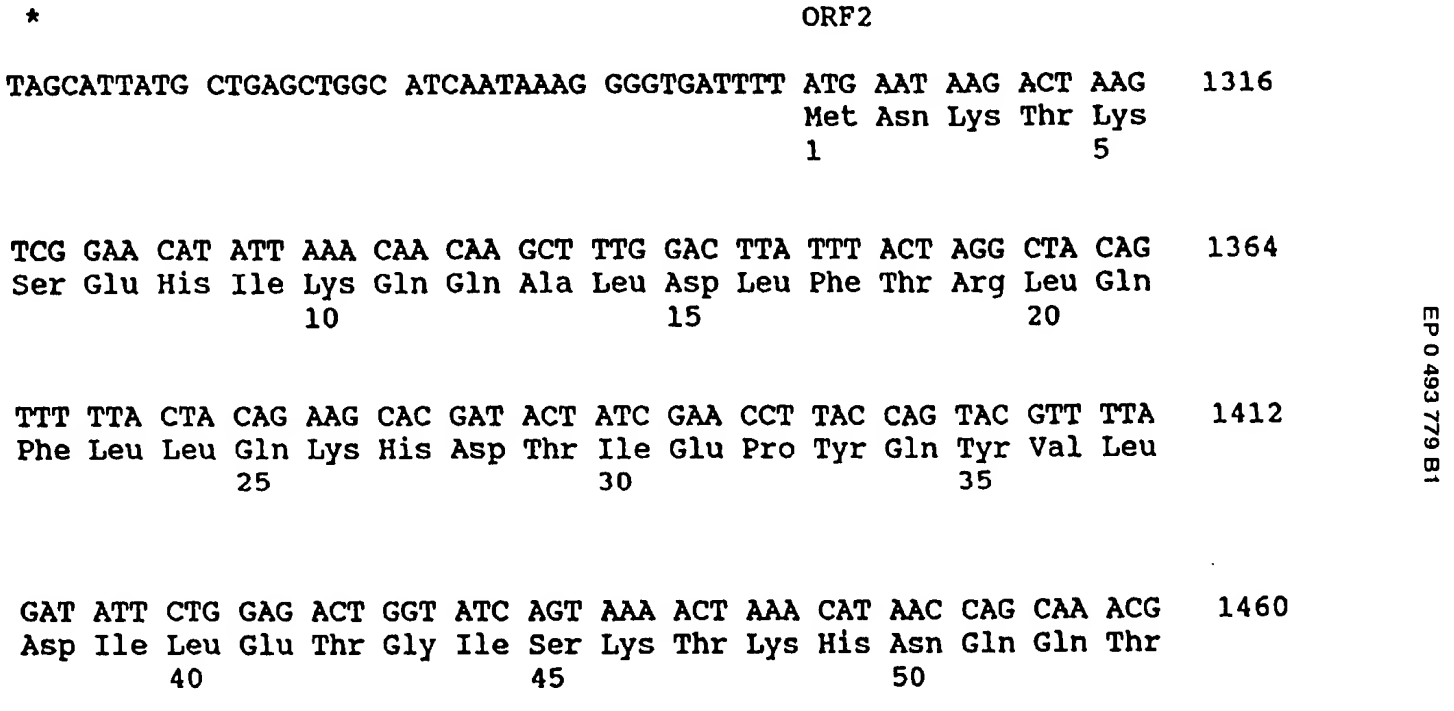
*
ORF2
TAGCATTATG CTGAGCTGGC ATCAATAAAG GGGTGATTTT ATG AAT AAG ACT AAG 1316
Met Asn Lys Thr Lys
1 5
TCG GAA CAT ATT AAA CAA CAA GCT TTG GAC TTA TTT ACT AGG CTA CAG 1364
Ser Glu His Ile Lys Gln Gln Ala Leu Asp Leu Phe Thr Arg Leu Gln
10 15 20
TTT TTA CTA CAG AAG CAC GAT ACT ATC GAA CCT TAC CAG TAC GTT TTA 1412
Phe Leu Leu Gln Lys His Asp Thr Ile Glu Pro Tyr Gln Tyr Val Leu
25 30 35
GAT ATT CTG GAG ACT GGT ATC AGT AAA ACT AAA CAT AAC CAG CAA ACG 1460
Asp Ile Leu Glu Thr Gly Ile Ser Lys Thr Lys His Asn Gln Gln Thr
40 45 50

FIG. 4D

FIG. 4E

```
CCT GAA CGA CAA GCT CGT GTA GTC TAC AAC AAG ATT GCC AGC CAA GCG   1508
Pro Glu Arg Gln Ala Arg Val Val Tyr Asn Lys Ile Ala Ser Gln Ala
    55                  60                  65

TTA GTA GAT AAG TTA CAT TTT ACT GCC GAA GAA AAC AAA GTT CTA GCA   1556
Leu Val Asp Lys Leu His Phe Thr Ala Glu Glu Asn Lys Val Leu Ala
70                  75                  80                  85

GCC ATC AAT GAA TTG GCG CAT TCT CAA AAA GGG TGG GGC GAG TTT AAC   1604
Ala Ile Asn Glu Leu Ala His Ser Gln Lys Gly Trp Gly Glu Phe Asn
                90                  95                  100

                                    *

ATG CTA GAT ACT ACC AAT ACG TGG CCT AGC CAA TAGTACTGAT AAAGGGGATA 1657
Met Leu Asp Thr Thr Asn Thr Trp Pro Ser Gln
            105                 110
```

TTGTAGTTGT CTAAGAAAT TTTGGTCAAAT ATCTTTTTAG CATTAGGCGT CTTTCTTGCT 1717

TTTGCAGGAG TTGCTACCA TATCGGTGAGT GCTGACAGTT CCGCTACTAT AGAATCAAAT 1777

ACTAGCTCGA AAATCATCG ATGGTGCAACT TATGAAGAAA ACATCAGGGG CGTTATTCCT 1837

ATTACGCTAA CTCAATATT TGCATAAAGCT CAAACTGGAG AAAAATTTAT TGTCTTTGTC 1897

GGGTTCAAGG AGTGTGTGC ATTGTCGTAAA TTTTCTCCAG TCATGAAACA GTACTTACAA 1957

CAAAGTCAGC ATCCCATTT ATTACTTAGAC TATGGGAACA ACGGGTCTTT CAGCATGGCT 2017

TCTCAAAAAC AAATAACTG ATTTCTATTCA ACTTTTGCAA CCCCCATGAG TTTTATGGGA 2077

ACGCCAACTG TTGCCTTGC TCGATAATGGT AAGGTGGTAT CAATGACCGC TGGTGATGAT 2137

ACCACTTTAT CTGATTTAC AACAGATTACT GCTGATTACA ATAATCAGTA GTCACCTGGT 2197

TAATATGGTT TTGTAACCA ATGTAAAAGGC GATGGATCTT TGAAATCGTC TTTTTTTATG 2257

FIG. 4F

FIG. 4G

ORF3

```
CACAAATTTT AAAGATCGG TGGTTTGCTT ATG TGG ACT CAA AAA TGG CAC AAA    2311
                                Met Trp Thr Gln Lys Trp His Lys
                                1               5

TAT TAT ACA GCA CAA GTT GAT GAA AAT GAC TGT GGT TTA GCT GCA CTA    2359
Tyr Tyr Thr Ala Gln Val Asp Glu Asn Asp Cys Gly Leu Ala Ala Leu
    10                  15                  20

AAT ATG ATC CTA AAA TAC TAT GGC TCC GAT TAC ATG TTG GCC CAT CTT    2407
Asn Met Ile Leu Lys Tyr Tyr Gly Ser Asp Tyr Met Leu Ala His Leu
25                  30                  35                  40

CGA CAG CTT GCC AAA ACA ACT GCT GAC GGT ACA ACT GTT TTG GGG CTT    2455
Arg Gln Leu Ala Lys Thr Thr Ala Asp Gly Thr Thr Val Leu Gly Leu
                45                  50                  55

GTT AAA GCA GCA AAA CAC TTA AAT TTA AAT GCC GAA GCT GTG CGT GCT    2503
Val Lys Ala Ala Lys His Leu Asn Leu Asn Ala Glu Ala Val Arg Ala
            60                  65                  70

GAT ATG GAT GCT TTG ACA GCC TCA CAA TTG CCA TTA CCA GTC ATT GTT    2551
Asp Met Asp Ala Leu Thr Ala Ser Gln Leu Pro Leu Pro Val Ile Val
        75                  80                  85
```

```
CAT GTA TTC AAG AAA AAT AAG TTA CCA CAC TAC TAT GTT GTC TAT CAG   2599
His Val Phe Lys Lys Asn Lys Leu Pro His Tyr Tyr Val Val Tyr Gln
    90                  95                  100

GTA ACT GAA AAC GAT TTA ATT ATT GGT GAT CCT GAT CCA ACC GTT AAA   2647
Val Thr Glu Asn Asp Leu Ile Ile Gly Asp Pro Asp Pro Thr Val Lys
105                 110                 115                 120

ACC ACT AAA ATA TCG AAA TCA CAA TTT GCT AAA GAA TGG ACC CAG ATT   2695
Thr Thr Lys Ile Ser Lys Ser Gln Phe Ala Lys Glu Trp Thr Gln Ile
                125                 130                 135

GCA ATT ATC ATA GCC CCA ACA GTT AAA TAT AAA CCC ATA AAA GAA TCA   2743
Ala Ile Ile Ile Ala Pro Thr Val Lys Tyr Lys Pro Ile Lys Glu Ser
            140                 145                 150

CGG CAC ACA TTA ATT GAT CTA GTG CCT TTA TTG ATT AAA CAA AAA AGA   2791
Arg His Thr Leu Ile Asp Leu Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Lys Gln Lys Arg
        155                 160                 165
```

FIG. 4H

FIG. 41

```
TTA ATT GGA CTA ATT ATT ACC GCA GCA GCT ATA ACA ACA TTA ATC AGT   2839
Leu Ile Gly Leu Ile Ile Thr Ala Ala Ala Ile Thr Thr Leu Ile Ser
    170                 175                 180

ATT GCT GGT GCA TAT TTC TTT CAG TTA ATT ATC GAT ACT TAT TTG CCG   2887
Ile Ala Gly Ala Tyr Phe Phe Gln Leu Ile Ile Asp Thr Tyr Leu Pro
185                 190                 195                 200

CAC TTG ATG ACT AAT AGG CTT TCA CTA GTT GCC ATT GGT CTG ATT GTA   2935
His Leu Met Thr Asn Arg Leu Ser Leu Val Ala Ile Gly Leu Ile Val
                205                 210                 215

GCT TAT GCT TTC CAA GCA ATT ATC AAC TAT ATA CAA AGT TTT TTT ACG   2983
Ala Tyr Ala Phe Gln Ala Ile Ile Asn Tyr Ile Gln Ser Phe Phe Thr
            220                 225                 230

ATT GTA TTA GGA CAA CGT CTC ATG ATC GAC ATC GTT TTA AAA TAC GTT   3031
Ile Val Leu Gly Gln Arg Leu Met Ile Asp Ile Val Leu Lys Tyr Val
        235                 240                 245
```


EP 0 493 779 B1

```
CAC CAT CTT TTT GAT TTA CCA ATG AAT TTT TTT ACT ACC CGT CAT GTC   3079
His His Leu Phe Asp Leu Pro Met Asn Phe Phe Thr Thr Arg His Val
    250                 255                 260

GGT GAA ATG ACC TCA CGC TTT TCT GAT GCA AGC AAA ATT ATT GAT GCA   3127
Gly Glu Met Thr Ser Arg Phe Ser Asp Ala Ser Lys Ile Ile Asp Ala
265                 270                 275                 280

CTT GGA AGT ACA ACG CTC ACC CTT TTT TTA GAC ATG TGG ATT TTA TTA   3175
Leu Gly Ser Thr Thr Leu Thr Leu Phe Leu Asp Met Trp Ile Leu Leu
                285                 290                 295

GCA GTA GGG TTA TTT TTG GCC TAT CAA AAC ATC AAT TTA TTT TTA TGC   3223
Ala Val Gly Leu Phe Leu Ala Tyr Gln Asn Ile Asn Leu Phe Leu Cys
            300                 305                 310

TCG TTA GTT GTG GTT CCA ATT TAC ATC TCG ATT GTT TGG CTA TTT AAA   3271
Ser Leu Val Val Val Pro Ile Tyr Ile Ser Ile Val Trp Leu Phe Lys
        315                 320                 325
```

FIG. 4J

FIG. 4K

```
AAA ACT TTT AAT CGT TTA AAT CAA GAT ACA ATG GAA AGC AAT GCA GTT   3319
Lys Thr Phe Asn Arg Leu Asn Gln Asp Thr Met Glu Ser Asn Ala Val
    330                 335                 340

CTT AAT TCT GCT ATT ATT GAA AGT CTC AGT GGC ATA GAA ACC ATT AAA   3367
Leu Asn Ser Ala Ile Ile Glu Ser Leu Ser Gly Ile Glu Thr Ile Lys
345                 350                 355                 360

TCA CTA ACT GGT GAA GCA ACT ACA AAA AAA AAG ATT GAC ACA CTA TTT   3415
Ser Leu Thr Gly Glu Ala Thr Thr Lys Lys Lys Ile Asp Thr Leu Phe
                365                 370                 375

TCT GAC TTA TTG CAT AAA AAC TTG GCT TAT CAA AAA GCT GAT CAA GGA   3463
Ser Asp Leu Leu His Lys Asn Leu Ala Tyr Gln Lys Ala Asp Gln Gly
            380                 385                 390

CAA CAA GCT ATC AAA GCA GCT ACT AAA TTA ATC CTA ACT ATT GTT ATC   3511
Gln Gln Ala Ile Lys Ala Ala Thr Lys Leu Ile Leu Thr Ile Val Ile
        395                 400                 405

CTT TGG TGG GGT ACT TTT TTT GTT ATG CGA CAC CAA CTG TCT TTA GGT   3559
Leu Trp Trp Gly Thr Phe Phe Val Met Arg His Gln Leu Ser Leu Gly
    410                 415                 420
```

```
CAG CTG TTA ACT TAT AAT GCT TTG CTC GCT TAC TTC TTG ACC CCA TTA   3607
Gln Leu Leu Thr Tyr Asn Ala Leu Leu Ala Tyr Phe Leu Thr Pro Leu
425                 430                 435                 440

GAA AAT ATT ATT AAT TTA CAG CCT AAA CTA CAA GCT GCC AGA GTG GCT   3655
Glu Asn Ile Ile Asn Leu Gln Pro Lys Leu Gln Ala Ala Arg Val Ala
                445                 450                 455

AAT AAT CGA TTA AAT GAG GTT TAT CTA GTA GAG TCT GAA TTT TCT AAA   3703
Asn Asn Arg Leu Asn Glu Val Tyr Leu Val Glu Ser Glu Phe Ser Lys
            460                 465                 470

TCT AGG GAA ATA ACT GCT CTA GAG CAA CTA AAT GGT GAT ATT GAG GTT   3751
Ser Arg Glu Ile Thr Ala Leu Glu Gln Leu Asn Gly Asp Ile Glu Val
        475                 480                 485

AAT CAT GTT AGT TTT AAC TAT GGC TAT TGT TCT AAT ATA CTT GAG GAT   3799
Asn His Val Ser Phe Asn Tyr Gly Tyr Cys Ser Asn Ile Leu Glu Asp
    490                 495                 500
```

FIG. 4L

FIG. 4M

```
GTT TCT CTA ACA ATT CCA CAT CAT CAG AAG ATT ACT ATT GTA GGC ATG    3847
Val Ser Leu Thr Ile Pro His His Gln Lys Ile Thr Ile Val Gly Met
505                 510                 515                 520

AGT GGT TCG GGG AAA ACG ACC CTA GCC AAG TTG CTA GTT GGT TTT TTT    3895
Ser Gly Ser Gly Lys Thr Thr Leu Ala Lys Leu Leu Val Gly Phe Phe
                525                 530                 535

GAG CCT CAA GAA CAG CAC GGT GAA ATT CAG ATT AAT CAT CAC AAT ATA    3943
Glu Pro Gln Glu Gln His Gly Glu Ile Gln Ile Asn His His Asn Ile
            540                 545                 550

TCT GAT ATT AGT CGC ACA ATT TTA CGC CAA TAT ATT AAT TAT GTT CCT    3991
Ser Asp Ile Ser Arg Thr Ile Leu Arg Gln Tyr Ile Asn Tyr Val Pro
        555                 560                 565

CAA GAA CCT TTC ATT TTT TCG GGC TCT GTA TTA GAA AAT TTA TTG TTA    4039
Gln Glu Pro Phe Ile Phe Ser Gly Ser Val Leu Glu Asn Leu Leu Leu
    570                 575                 580
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GGT AGC CGT CCT GGA GTA ACT CAA CAA ATG ATT GAT CAA GCT TGT TCC   4087
Gly Ser Arg Pro Gly Val Thr Gln Gln Met Ile Asp Gln Ala Cys Ser
585                 590                 595                 600

TTT GCT GAA ATC AAA ACT GAT ATA GAA AAT TTG CCT CAA GGT TAT CAT   4135
Phe Ala Glu Ile Lys Thr Asp Ile Glu Asn Leu Pro Gln Gly Tyr His
                605                 610                 615

ACT AGA TTA AGT GAA AGT GGA TTC AAC TTA TCT GGT GGG CAA AAA CAG   4183
Thr Arg Leu Ser Glu Ser Gly Phe Asn Leu Ser Gly Gly Gln Lys Gln
            620                 625                 630

CGG TTA TCA ATA GCT AGA GCA TTA TTG TCT CCG GCA CAA TGT TTC ATT   4231
Arg Leu Ser Ile Ala Arg Ala Leu Leu Ser Pro Ala Gln Cys Phe Ile
        635                 640                 645

TTT GAC GAA TCA ACC AGT AAT TTA GAC ACC ATT ACT GAA CAT AAA ATA   4279
Phe Asp Glu Ser Thr Ser Asn Leu Asp Thr Ile Thr Glu His Lys Ile
    650                 655                 660
```

FIG. 4N

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FIG. 40

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GTC TCT AAG CTA TTA TTC ATG AAA GAC AAA ACG ATA ATT TTT GTA GCA    4327
Val Ser Lys Leu Leu Phe Met Lys Asp Lys Thr Ile Ile Phe Val Ala
665                 670                 675                 680

CAT CGT CTC AAT ATT GCG TCT CAA ACC GAT AAA GTT GTC GTT CTT GAT    4375
His Arg Leu Asn Ile Ala Ser Gln Thr Asp Lys Val Val Val Leu Asp
                685                 690                 695

CAT GGA AAG ATT GTT GAA CAG GGA TCA CAT CGA CAA TTG TTA AAT TAT    4423
His Gly Lys Ile Val Glu Gln Gly Ser His Arg Gln Leu Leu Asn Tyr
            700                 705                 710

                                                    *
AAT GGG TAT TAT GCA CGG TTA ATT CAT AAT CAA GAA     TAG CCTGACAAG  4471
Asn Gly Tyr Tyr Ala Arg Leu Ile His Asn Gln Glu
        715                 720

AACCAGTCTG CTATTGATAG ACTATTCTTG TCCGTGAAAT CCTCGCGTAT TTCCGTGAGG  4531

AGCATAGTAT ATTTAGCGAT CTTCAAATTT TAAGTATATT GATTCATATG TTTATCCTCC  4591
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TAAGTTTGAG GACAAACCGG TACATGTTAT AATACTTCTA CCGGCTTGTC CGGTGTCTGG 4651

AGCATTACCA CATCCTTTCT GGGATAGAGG TAATGCTCTT CTAAAGTGCG CTTAAATAAC 4711

CATTGCCAGT GGTTAATCAG TGCTTTAACA TGTTGCGTAA GTCATTGAGG GTGTCGGATT 4771

CCACGGCCTC AATGACTTTT TTTGTGCCTT ATAATTAAAG GTGTTAAAAT ACGTCGTAAC 4831

TTACCACCAT AAAGCAGTCC AATTAATTTA TTGACTTCTA AGTAAAATAC CAGGAGTTTT 4891

GCTATGAGTT AACTATGATC CTGGGTGGTC ACTAAAACAT TCCTTAATTC AGGGTCTATA 4951

ACTATCAAAT CGCCCCTCAA AATCATTGTT AAAATAACCC CCAATATCTA TAATGTAGAT 5011

GTTGGGGGTT ATTTATTTTA ATATTAAATA AATAACTTCT TCTATTTGTC ATCAATACTA 5071

AACAATAATT TGTACAAAGT GATTATTTCT TCTAGTTCTT CACGCGATAC ATGATCGACA 5131

FIG. 4P

ATAGTTTCAT CAGTGACATG TCTTGCCCGT AAATCTAAGG CTATGGTTTG ATCTAATAAT 5191

ACTTTTCCAT ATACTGTTTG ACTACTAGTT AGTCGATGAT ACATTGGAAA ATTACGCTTG 5251

GTACTGCTAA TTGGAGCCGC AATCGTCATG TTACTTGTCT GACAGACTAG ATCATTGCTT 5311

AGCGCAATGG CTGGTCGCTT ATTCATCTGT TCATGACCAC GGCTTGGATT AAAGTTAACA 5371

TAAAATATAT CACCTTGGCT TACCATTGAA GTTCATTACC TTCTGACTTT CCCCAATCAA 5431

GCTCGTGATC CCTTTTCCCG TCATCTTGCC AATCCTTAAA TAGTTCGTGA ATATTGGTTG 5491

GGTTCTTTTT TATTGGTGTT AAAACAATTG ATCCATTTTC AATGGTTATT GTCATATCTT 5551

EcoRI

GGTTATCATC TAATTTCAGT TGTTTAATAA TTTGGCTAGG AATTC 5596

FIG. 4Q

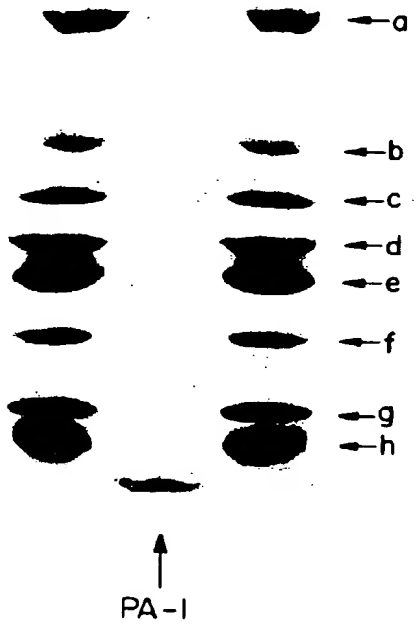

FIG. 5A

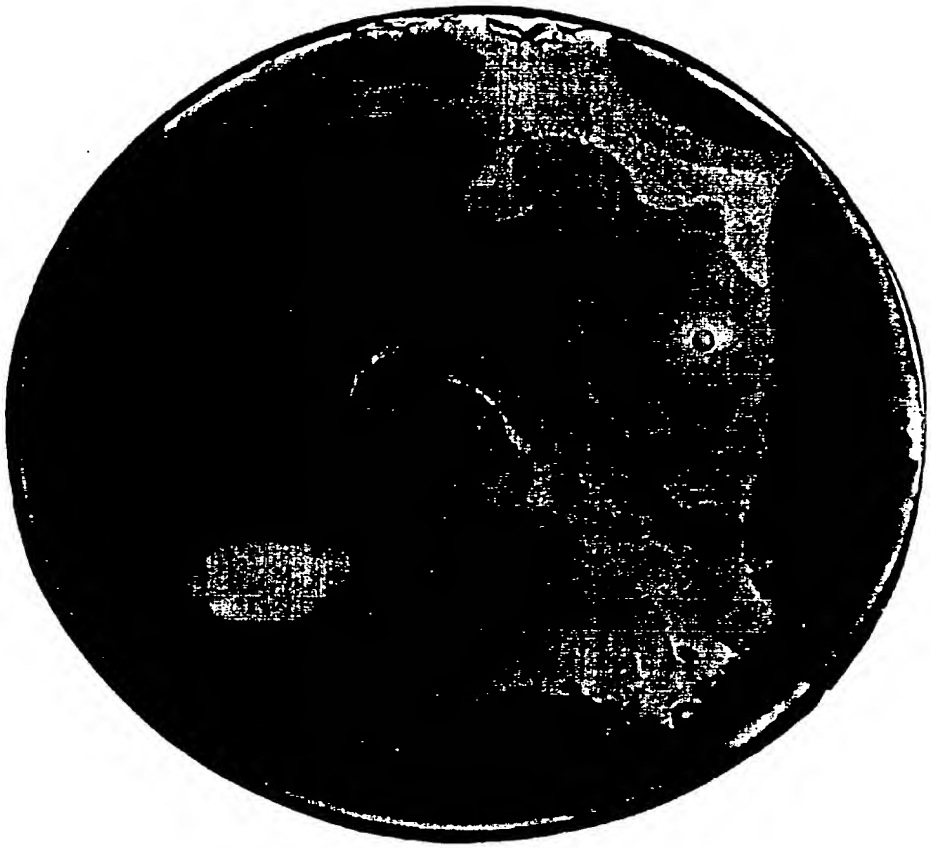

FIG.5B